THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

CIC: Advocates can't use RTI Act to seek details for clients' cases

The Central Information Commission (CIC) has ruled that advocates cannot use the Right to Information (RTI) Act to seek details regarding cases they are handling for clients. Quoting a Madras High Court order, the CIC underlined that "a practising advocate cannot seek information relating to the cases instituted by him on behalf of his client".

EU pushback against tariff threat over Greenland

AGENCIES

EUROPEAN leaders on Sunday slammed US President Donald Trump's threat of tariffs over their opposition to his designs on Greenland, warning transatlantic ties were at risk.

Several European countries — including Denmark, of which Greenland is an autonomous territory — emphasised they "stand united" against Trump's vow on Saturday to hit them with tariffs of up to 25 percent unless Greenland is ceded to the United States. "Tariff threats undermine transatlantic relations and risk a dangerous downward spiral," Britain, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden warned in a joint statement Sunday.

The European Union, which clinched a deal with Washington in July for most EU exports to face a 15-percent US levy, has called an extraordinary meeting of its ambassadors in Brussels on Sunday.

France's President Emmanuel Macron will ask the EU to activate a never-before-used "anti-coercion instrument" against the United States if Trump makes good on his tariff threat, Macron's aides said.

The bloc's weapon, dubbed its trade "bazooka", allows curbing imports of goods and services into the EU, a market of 27 countries with a combined population of 450 million.

Red Cross personnel walk amid the ruins in Jabalia, Gaza Strip on Saturday | AP

Trump invites Modi to join Gaza 'Board of Peace'

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

US President Donald Trump has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to join a proposed "Board of Peace" for Gaza, in a significant outreach as Washington seeks to shape the post-war governance and reconstruction of the besieged enclave.

The invitation letter was sent on January 16.

"It is my Great Honor to invite you, as Prime Minister of the Republic of India, to join me in a critically Historic and Magnificent effort to solidify Peace in the Middle East and, at the same time, to embark on a bold new approach to resolving Global Conflict!" the letter from the US president said.

Pakistan's Foreign Office had earlier said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had also been invited to be part of the initiative.

Several global leaders have been invited to be part of the board, including Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, and the leaders of France, Germany, Australia and Canada.

More details about the proposed body surfaced after letters sent by Trump to Argentine President Javier Milei and Paraguayan President Santiago Peña were posted by the two leaders on social media. In his letter to Milei, Trump said the board would work to "solidify peace in the Middle East" and pursue a "bold new approach to resolving global conflict."

A draft charter circulated by the Trump administration to around 60 countries reportedly requires member states to contribute $1 billion in cash for memberships extending beyond three years.

Trump has named former British PM Tony Blair as a founding executive member of the board, alongside Jared Kushner, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and World Bank Group President Ajay Banga.

MODI TARGETS CONG, TMC IN POLL PITCH

Accuses the two parties of endangering national security for the sake of vote-bank politics

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR & SUBHENDU MAITI @ Guwahati / Kolkata

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday mounted a sharp political attack on the Congress and Trinamool Congress (TMC), accusing the two parties of endangering national security by protecting infiltrators for vote-bank politics.

After laying the foundation stone for the ₹6,957 crore Kaziranga Elevated Corridor, and virtually flagging off two Amrit Bharat trains from Kaliabor in election-bound Assam's Nagaon district, Modi accused the Congress of allowing infiltrators in exchange for votes during its years in power in the north-eastern state.

Taking potshots at the Congress for its poor show in the recent Bihar Assembly election and Maharashtra local body polls, Modi said the grand old party has lost the trust of the nation and the BJP has become the first choice of people.

"In the recent Bihar elections, even after 20 years, people gave a record number of votes to the BJP, helping it win a record number of seats. Mumbai, for the first time, gave a record mandate to the BJP. In most cities of Maharashtra, people gave the BJP an opportunity to serve them," he said.

PM Narendra Modi addresses a gathering in Nagaon, Assam, on Sunday | PTI

Modi also pointed to the BJP's electoral breakthrough in Kerala, where the party secured the mayor's post in Thiruvananthapuram for the first time. According to Modi, the results across states reflected a consistent national trend.

"The voters today want good governance and development. That is why, they like the BJP," he said, adding that the results show the Congress is being repeatedly rejected by voters.

Later in the day, addressing a rally at West Bengal's Singur, Modi accused the TMC government of sitting idle on the Centre's request to acquire land for fencing the Bangladesh border. He said the party is "playing with the country's security" by giving support to infiltrators from Bangladesh. "The state government is giving safety and security to infiltrators and that's why they vote for TMC," the PM said.

EXPRESS READ

CM's convoy gets caught in Suttur Jatra traffic snarl

Mysuru: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was briefly caught in a traffic jam while returning from the Suttur Jatra Mahotsava near Mysuru on Sunday. Heavy vehicular movement and a large gathering of devotees returning after the mega religious event at Suttur Sri Kshetra resulted in traffic jams on the route. The police struggled to clear the traffic and ensure smooth passage for the CM's convoy, which was stuck for several minutes | P4

Kohli ton in vain as India suffer historic loss

Indore: Virat Kohli smashes his 85th international ton, but New Zealand had the last laugh as they beat India by 41 runs to win their first ODI series in the country. Less than 18 months ago, Black Caps handed India a 3-0 hammering in red-ball cricket and now have followed it up with a sensational ODI series win weeks before the T20 World Cup | P13

Iran protests death toll over 5,000

Dubai: At least 5,000 people have been killed in protests in Iran, including about 500 security personnel, Reuters reported citing an unnamed Iranian official on Sunday. The consolidated death toll was based on verified figures, with the official accusing "terrorists and armed rioters" of killing "innocent Iranians" | P11

Nod given to KSCA conditional, says Dr G

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

HOME Minister **G Parameshwara** told reporters here on Sunday that the state government has given permission to host matches at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, subject to certain conditions.

He said the Justice D'Cunha Commission submitted its recommendations on the safety measures to be implemented, and they were also sent to the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA). A committee was constituted to oversee the safety measures implemented and the matter was discussed in the Cabinet.

The committee observed that the recommendations had been complied with. Before submitting its report to the Cabinet, KSCA had requested permission to host matches, assuring the government that it would fulfil all the recommendations.

During the Cabinet meeting, it was discussed that both long-term and short-term measures should be implemented. P7

Government of Karnataka

In Joint Collaboration of District Administration, Belagavi & Backward Classes Welfare Department and Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Kshetra Development Authority

Dedication of "Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Museum (Veerabhoomi)" and

Statue of Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna

Near the lake of Samadhi and Bhoomi Puja Programme of various works

Date: 19th January, Monday. Time: 12.00 Noon.

Venue: Nandagad Rural Education Society Ground, Nandagad, Khanapur Taluk

▪ **Consrtuction of Sainik School** in the name of Sangolli Rayanna on an area of 100 Acres in Sangolli Village ▪ **Construction of Museum** at the place of the Banyan Tree in Nandagad where Sangolli Rayanna was hanged **(Veerabhoomi)** ▪ **Development of lake** near the Samadhi of Sangolli Rayanna in Nandagad ▪ **Construction of Shouryabhoomi** in Sangolli Village which will depict the history of Rayanna's childhood up to his hanging

Divine Presence

Srimad Jagadguru Sri Revanasiddeshwara Simhasanadhishwara

Paramapoojya Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Dr. Niranjanandapuri Mahaswamigalu

Kaginele Mahasamsthana, Kanaka Gurupeeta, Sri Kshetra Kaginele

Inauguration by

Sri Siddaramaiah

Hon'ble Chief Minister and Chairman, Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Kshetra Development Authority

Chief Guests

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Water Resources

Sri Satish L. Jarkiholi
Hon'ble Minister for Public Works and Belagavi District in-Charge Minister

Smt. Lakshmi R. Hebbalkar
Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development & Differently Abled and Senior Citizens Empowerment

Sri Tangadagi Shivaraj Sangappa
Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes Welfare & Kannada and Culture

Sri Byrathi S. Suresh
Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development

Presided by

Sri Vithal Somanna Halagekar
Hon'ble MLA, Khanapur Assembly Constituency

Sri Tangadagi Shivaraj Sangappa, Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes Welfare & Kannada and Culture & Sri H.M. Revanna, Hon'ble Chairman, Karnataka State Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority and former Minister on a visit to the Museum

Special Invitees

Sri H.M. Revanna
Hon'ble Chairman, Karnataka State Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority and former Minister

Sri Ashok M. Pattan
Hon'ble Government Chief Whip, Legislative Assembly

Sri Prakash B Hukkeri
Hon'ble Special Representative of GoK, New Delhi

Sri Bharamagowda A. Kage
Hon'ble Chairman, North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation Limited

Sri Mahantesh Shivanand Koujalagi
Hon'ble Chairman, Karnataka State Financial Corporation

Hon'ble MPs of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Hon'ble MLAs & MLCs, Hon'ble Chairman of Belagavi Urban Development Authority, Hon'ble Chairpersons of various Boards and Corporations, Hon'ble Presidents of Nandagad and Kasaba Nadagad Gram Panchayaths and other dignitaries will participate in the programme as Special Invitees.

As is enshrined in our Constitution to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

All are cordially invited

karnataka information

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 19.01.2026 • Year: Vishwavasu • Ayana: Uttharayana
• Ritu: Sisira • Masa: Magha • Paksha: Sukla • Tithi: Prathami 1.53 am
• Nakshatra: Uttharashada 12.04 pm • Moon in Kumbha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 13°C | MAX 29°C
FORECAST Sunny

Sunrise 06.46 am
Sunset 06.13 pm
Moonrise 07.07 am
Moonset 06.47 pm

02 BENGALURU MONDAY 19.01.2026 newindianexpress.com

MERCURY SWINGS AS DAY HEAT GRIPS CITY, NIGHTS STAY CHILLY

IMD cites clear skies, calm wind conditions; Greens blame loss of trees, bigger buildings

Weather vane

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

POST Sankranti, the weather is confusing Bengalureans who are switching on fans during the day and pulling on blankets at night. There has been a shift in temperature, with a noticeable rise in mercury in the past three days, leading to hot days but chilly nights. Street vendors and people working outdoors say the heat has made conditions difficult, especially during peak noon hours.

According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), the rise in daytime temperature is largely due to clear skies and calm wind conditions. "With very little cloud cover and almost no surface wind during the day, the maximum temperature feels higher," said N Puviarasan, head of IMD Bengaluru. He explained that earlier, surface winds had provided some cooling effect, but lack of wind has made the heat more noticeable. He added that while daytime temperatures have increased, night temperatures remain lower due to calm conditions. IMD officials said the current heat spell is temporary and weather conditions are expected to fluctuate in the coming days.

Scientists noted that the heat has reduced fog conditions, helping to reduce respiratory-related illnesses, and is also favourable for agricultural activities. Environmentalists, however, warned that urban factors are worsening the impact of rising temperatures in the city. "Large parts of Bengaluru have lost tree cover and are now dominated by concrete, glass and steel, all of which absorb and radiate heat," said Bhargavi S Rao, environmental researcher. She added that changes in building bylaws allowing taller construction on smaller plots have increased heat retention in the city. According to her, communities living in slums with tin or sheet roofs are particularly vulnerable, along with street vendors, waste workers, auto drivers and gig workers who spend long hours outdoors.

Street vendors across the city have already begun expressing concern over the heat, pointing out the lack of shade and trees in many areas. While the current conditions are not extreme, experts said the heat is being felt more due to calm winds and urbanisation, and advised residents to take precautions during peak daytime hours.

PRIZED SPOT

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's statue, which was moved for Namma Metro work, being reinstalled in front of Vidhana Soudha on Sunday. Netaji's birth anniversary will be celebrated on January 23 as Parakram Diwas | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

GBA calls fresh tenders for its five corporation offices

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

AFTER two earlier tenders failed to garner any interest, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has invited fresh tenders for the third time to prepare a detailed project report (DPR) for the proposed construction of offices for its city corporations, each spread over a minimum of 75,000sqft.

Apart from Bengaluru Central City Corporation, GBA will build offices for the remaining four city corporations, with a unique architectural theme, deploying modern construction techniques. After the split of the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) into five corporations, each of the entities has been functioning by converting existing old zonal offices.

GBA is gearing up to set up offices for the corporations, with council halls, meeting halls, multiple office rooms, record room, library and parking space. Each of the new offices would have an integrated command and control centre and a cafeteria, along with other ancillary facilities.

TENTATIVE OFFICE LOCATIONS

East City: Basavanapura village, Mahadevapura

West City: Chandra Layout

North City: Chokkanahalli village

South City: Vacant land beside Banashankari Metro Station

Central City: Existing Council building at GBA headquarters

Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-Smile), the infrastructure special purpose vehicle of the GBA which will take up construction work, has invited tenders for the third time for preparation of the DPR for Rs 3 crore.

A B-Smile official said they want the buildings not only to have unique architectural themes but also to be blue-green structures that minimise energy and water consumption, and reasoned that it could have been the reason why they did not find any bidders in the past two calls.

A review committee headed by the B-Smile MD, with commissioners of four city corporations, special commissioner (finance), engineer-in-chief and others would evaluate and finalise the designs and work, he said. The official said they are confident of finding a consultant this time, and once they are given the work order, they have to submit the DPR in 60 days.

Central City Corporation takes up cleanliness drive

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BENGALURU Central City Corporation carried out a cleanliness drive on 15 major roads within the corporation limits on Sunday, informed Commissioner Rajendra Cholan. The roads are spread across six assembly constituencies.

In wards 114 and 80 in CV Raman Nagar constituency, work was carried out on Channasandra Main Road, Indiranagar 6th Main, 80 Feet Road, 12th Main, and Kasturinagar 2nd Main. In ward 119 of Chickpet constituency, NR Road, Motinagar, and surrounding areas were cleaned. In ward 111 of Shanthinagar constituency, the drive covered Mother Teresa Road, MG Road, and surrounding roads. In ward 120 in Gandhinagar constituency, Shanthala Silk Signal to Cottonpet via Police Road was cleaned. In Chamarajpet constituency, work was carried out on Chalavadi Palya Main Road and in Balekai Mandi premises. Finally, in Shivajinagar constituency, Church Road, MM Road, and surrounding roads were cleaned.

Workers remove garbage and construction debris in Central City Corporation limits on Sunday | EXPRESS

The drive included removing unauthorised flexes and banners at the locations. The Forest department joined hands to remove dry branches and twigs from Krishna Rao Park and other areas. Engineers, supervisors, gangmen and pourakarmikas participated in the drive.

The Manekshaw Parade Ground was surveyed by chief engineer Suguna ahead of Republic Day celebrations to be held at the venue. She stated that necessary preparations were being made, including levelling the ground using rollers and sprinkling water to prevent dust.

Fishkill raises pollution fears at Harohalli

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AROUND a dozen fish were found dead at Harohalli Lake in Yelahanka on Saturday morning, raising concern among walkers and environmental activists, though officials attributed the incident to seasonal factors. According to morning walkers, around 12 common carp fish were found dead along the edges of the lake. Each fish, measuring between 12 and 18 inches, were mostly of the same species. They urged authorities to conduct an immediate inspection, suspecting low dissolved oxygen levels or possible sewage pollution.

V Selvarajan, chairman of Green Circle, who visited the lake, said the situation was disturbing. "What is shocking is that two spot-billed pelicans were also found dead," he said, adding that while low oxygen could be a reason, repeated incidents made him suspect that sewage from nearby residential areas gets mixed with lake water.

A GBA official said such fish deaths were common during seasonal changes. "Dissolved oxygen levels usually drop between 3 am and 4 am, sometimes leading to fish deaths. If pollution were the cause, the number of dead fish would be much higher," the official said.

EXPRESS READ

School celebrates Sankranti

Bengaluru: St Flowers English School in Vidyaranyanagar, Magadi Road, celebrated Sankranti with traditional rituals on its campus. The programme began with 'Gou Pooja' along with offerings of sugarcane, groundnuts and grains. Students wore traditional attire and took part in cultural practises associated with the harvest festival. As part of the celebration, students exchanged 'yellu bella', symbolising harmony and goodwill. Founder-chairman of the school GR Krishnappa spoke about the importance of festivals in promoting cultural awareness and togetherness among students. Managing Director Darshan Krishna and others were present. ENS

RUAS, SUNY Albany sign four MoUs

Bengaluru: Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS) hosted a delegation from the University at Albany, State University of New York (SUNY), led by its president Dr Havidán Rodríguez, on Friday. The delegation consisted of provost Dr Carol Kim, vice-president for research and economic growth Dr T Keshav Das, and dean of engineering and applied sciences Dr Michele J Grimm. They engaged in discussions with chairman of the Ramaiah Group and Chancellor of RUAS Dr MR Jayaram, which resulted in the signing of four MoUs. "The collaboration with SUNY at Albany strengthens RUAS's ambition to be a globally connected, industry-relevant applied sciences university," said Jayaram. "Our collaboration with RUAS exemplifies this approach of bringing together education, research, and innovation to address real-world challenges while preparing students for leadership in advanced technology domains," said Rodriguez. ENS

Cubbon Park Walkers' Assn says no to proposed skating rink at Bal Bhavan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Cubbon Park Walkers' Association (CPWA) has strongly opposed the proposed construction of a skating rink at Bal Bhavan, urging the state government to immediately halt the project and prevent further concretisation of the city's premier green space.

The association said the proposed facility was unnecessary, pointing out that a well-equipped skating rink already exists at the Sri Kanteerava Stadium, located just across the road from Cubbon Park. Building another rink within the park would amount to a redundant use of public resources while causing avoidable environmental damage, it said.

The CPWA warned that the proposal was part of a continuing trend of urbanisation encroaching upon Cubbon Park, which it described as one of Bengaluru's last remaining "lung spaces". Any additional permanent structures, the association argued, would irreversibly harm the park's ecosystem.

"Our stance is clear: Cubbon Park must be protected in its natural state," says S Umesh, President, Cubbon Park Walkers' Association. "We cannot allow the park to be treated as a vacant plot for construction. We must prioritise the preservation of our environment over redundant sporting infrastructure that already exists nearby."

The association has demanded that the government and the horticulture department withdraw the proposal immediately, impose a total ban on new concrete structures within the park and officially recognise and protect Cubbon Park as a sensitive ecological zone.

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

19th January : Altruistic Launch for Aquarius Season
"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" said Martin Luther King Jr. Aquarius season begins with two auspicious earth sign trines on the day we honor the civil rights leader who framed service as a daily practice rather than a distant ideal. The astrology supports steady, practical acts of care that turn good intentions into a tangible impact.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
There's a problem to toy with — not a problem that's urgent and needs solving, but one you can figure out in joy and playfulness. A relaxed state will do much of the work for you. So many solutions will come to you.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
You don't romanticize less-than-ideal circumstances, nor do you let them define you. These conditions add dimension to your work, your purpose and your life. You'll use all that happens like the artist you are.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
It's a day to revisit the rituals that connect you to your values and remind you of who you are and where you come from. That might sound serious and effort-intensive, but it plays out simply: "I do this because it feels good, familiar or fun to me, and here's why ..."

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
You recognize quality quickly. You can point to the best things — the meat of an idea, the cute part of a story, the best characteristics of a person. Today, your instinct to find the best part saves time and elevates outcomes.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
Your confidence isn't about what you have. It's about knowing you can make something of whatever comes. You trust in your powers of adaptation, which seem to braid together your creativity, resilience and emotional intelligence to orient you toward possibility.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
The sky is only blue a fraction of the time. Many carrots are not orange. Many radishes are not red. Not all blue whales are blue. Life comes to you vividly today because you have the open mind to see beyond color and into the possibility.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
You're learning for the joy of it. The fact you stumble upon today becomes a bridge to something larger. Curiosity compounds. It's all casual today, but just wait and see how quickly it grows into an immersive interest.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
You embody a cheerful cleverness, like you just cracked a code, and you'll apply some of this to your relationship with money. Today, you're centered on value rather than price. Spending becomes intentional. What you choose supports your priorities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
You're in the mood to zoom out and ask a bigger and brighter question. Possibility feels generous today, not abstract. An invitation, an idea or a change of scenery remind you how many choices you really have, and that freedom fuels your optimism.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
Steady effort pays off in a satisfying way. You see how far you've come because something that once felt heavy now feels manageable. Your competence makes everything easier, and that ease frees you to think creatively about what comes next.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
You notice where you don't quite fit, and instead of adjusting yourself, you adjust the situation. Innovation can happen through small tweaks and original angles -- you prove that today. What seems unconventional at first proves effective and very much your style.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
A pause will be necessary to get perspective. If it feels luxurious, let it be. If it's merely practical, that's good, too. Just don't let it feel indulgent because this is necessary. Moments of stillness sharpen judgment and soften interactions. You return refreshed and clear.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle ⬇

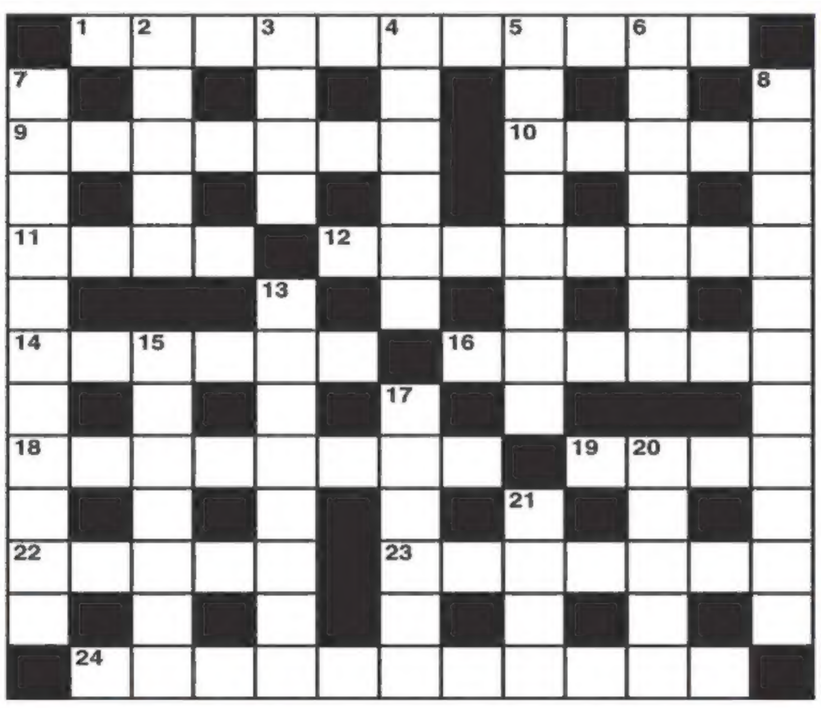
			2		5	8	4	
		2				5	9	3
5	8		3		1		2	
9	4	8	5	1				
				3	4	9	1	8
	5		1		8		6	9
2	6	1				4		
	7	9	4		6			

9	4	6	5	1	2	7	8	3
5	3	2	4	7	8	6	9	1
8	1	7	6	9	3	5	2	4
3	5	1	9	8	6	4	7	2
7	8	9	2	3	4	1	6	5
6	2	4	1	5	7	8	3	9
4	9	3	7	6	1	2	5	8
1	6	8	3	2	5	9	4	7
2	7	5	8	4	9	3	1	6

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Thoughtful form of desecration! (11)
9 Refuse to dress on time (7)
10 His victims lose heart (5)
11 This month in Westminster (4)
12 Go over new art and poetry (8)
14 Escort round the district (6)
16 New union members are required to move debris (6)
18 He may act well but he paints badly (8)
19 Leading actor of performing arts (4)
22 Classical customs more to the point (5)
23 His true array is shaggy naturally (7)
24 Groups that promote diversionary activities (6,5)

DOWN
2 Giants hiding in the gorse (5)
3 Type of opera that evokes flattery (4)
4 Doctor has a bad year and becomes dismal (6)
5 Hope for the lost and sick (8)
6 Came to the point throwing out red tape (7)
7 The seconds are important in such a fight (7,4)
8 Advisers are represented on opposite sides (11)
13 He works so that others may play (8)
15 Solve a mystery and become brighter (5,2)
17 Emotion shown by love in little ways (6)
20 It's quite rough and ready as a rule (5)
21 Dentist's examination? (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Relate, 4 Estimate, 9 Income, 10 Prelude, 12 Dour, 13 Brain, 14 Hebe, 17 One jump ahead, 20 Silent comedy, 23 Orbit, 24 Folly, 25 Disc, 28 Talk down, 29 Camal, 30 Disarmed, 31 Hebrew.

Down: 1 Raindrop, 2 Lectures, 3 Tome, 5 Straight talk, 6 Inca, 7 Amulet, 8 Eleven, 11 Prophet of woe, 15 Audio, 16 Baron, 18 Beginner, 19 Lynch law, 21 Bolted, 22 Aisles, 26 Oder, 27 Mate.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

NOJBA

TKIYT

DHLEUD

CURICS

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ( ) ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: CHIVE POKER TOWARD GOVERN
Answer: Hagar played a joke at the Russian restaurant when he ordered — A RED HERRING

Thousands of fans of Kannada Bigg Boss Season 12 winner Gilli Nata gathered outside Jollywood Studio in Bidadi leading to chaos, slogan raising and road blocks. Police personnel were deployed in large numbers to control the situation, and a mild lathicharge was carried out to disperse the crowd. Even before the final results were officially declared, fans had assembled outside the studio and began celebrating, causing traffic disruption in the area

Only 41K of 3.45L autos in B'luru update meters

Unions say fares revised without consultation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

JUST a little over 41,000 of the 3.45 lakh registered autorickshaws in Bengaluru have recalibrated their auto meters to the revised minimum fare, highlighting poor compliance despite repeated deadline extensions. With app-based auto services dominating urban transport, recalibration has taken a back seat, as meter usage has become almost alien to many drivers and commuters. The revised fares came into effect in August 2025.

According to the data from the transport department, the city has 3.45 lakh autos and the recalibration window concluded on December 31, 2025. The earlier deadline was October 31.

Rudramurthy, General Secretary, Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union (ARDU), blamed administrative lapses for the poor response to auto meter recalibration. He said all unions had submitted representations to the district administration, but revised fares were announced without proper consultation, resulting in low compliance. Rudramurthy noted that fare structures being demanded already exist in cities such as Mangaluru, Udupi and Shivamogga, and could have been adopted in Bengaluru as well.

He stressed that even app-booked rides must strictly operate on meters, with fares charged based on actual distance covered. Displaying fares on mobile apps, he said is itself an offence, as meters function on wheel rotation while app-based estimates can be manipulated. According to him, drivers have little incentive to recalibrate meters because app fares often show higher amounts.

He added that autos no longer operate on meters due to weak enforcement, despite provisions to levy a Rs 5,000 fine for violating permit conditions. Mandatory quarterly RTA meetings are also not being held. "The reason only a small number of meters have been recalibrated is because the system itself discourages meter use. Unless meter use is made compulsory, recalibration will not improve," Rudramurthy added.

Meanwhile, a legal metrology official said only about 10,000 meters were recalibrated before the deadline extension, despite four centres being set up and jurisdictional restrictions being relaxed. At present, the total number of recalibrated meters stands at 41,340.

CITY STINKS

Garbage dumped along the busy Ring Road near Kadirenahalli junction making movement difficult for pedestrians and vehicle riders in Bengaluru | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Two convicts assault assistant jailer at prison

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

TWO convicts allegedly assaulted an assistant jailer and obstructed him from discharging his duties at the Bengaluru Central Prison on January 7.

Assistant Jailer S Murthy sustained minor injuries in the incident. Based on a complaint filed by the prison superintendent, the Parappana Agrahara police registered a case against Anand (33) and Abdul Ghani (41).

According to the FIR, the incident occurred around 3 pm when the two inmates attempted to enter the Convicted Prisoners' Office without any valid reason. When Murthy and other prison staff on duty stopped them, the accused allegedly got enraged, abused the officials using foul language, kicked the assistant jailer, assaulted him and obstructed him from performing his duties.

It alleged that prison personnel are not provided with adequate protection and urged authorities to take appropriate action against the accused before the situation worsens.

Matrimonial fraud: Woman cheated of Rs 1.53 crore, accused on the run

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A 29-year-old software engineer was allegedly cheated of Rs 1.53 crore by a man she met on a matrimonial website, who collected money from her on the pretext of investing in a business after making a false promise of marriage. The accused also allegedly introduced his wife as his sister.

The woman filed a complaint at the Whitefield police station against Vijay Raj Gowda, who claimed to be a businessman, his wife Soumya, and his associate UJ Boregowda. The case was later transferred to the Kengeri police station.

In her complaint, the woman stated that she came in contact with Vijay in March 2024 through a matrimonial website. He allegedly claimed to own a company named VRG Enterprises that possessed crushers, lorries and houses in Rajajinagar and Sadashivanagar. He reportedly told her that he owned assets worth Rs 715 crore in Bengaluru and persuaded her to invest in a joint business venture, through which he allegedly collected Rs 1.75 crore from her in phases.

She alleged that after gaining her trust, Vijay claimed that cases had been registered against him following ED raids and that his bank accounts had been frozen. He allegedly showed her fake court documents to support his claims and continued to extort money.

She alleged that Vijay also induced her friends to invest in his business and cheated them of lakhs of rupees. She stated that he once took her near Kengeri and introduced her to his family members. She later discovered that she had been cheated and that Vijay was already married and had a child.

When she demanded her money back, Vijay allegedly repaid only Rs 22 lakh. She further alleged that he threatened to kill her and her friends if she continued to demand the remaining amount.

The police said a manhunt has been launched to trace the accused

50 signals added, total goes to 501 in city

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU Traffic Police has added 50 new traffic signals this financial year, taking the total to 501 signals in the city. The department is now undertaking a study to ascertain where traffic signals can be added or removed, for better regulation of traffic. Experts, though, say signals are unnecessary until people follow traffic rules.

Joint Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Karthik Reddy said the department is planning a study in the next few days to analyse where more signals can be added. Some have already been removed and a few more could go in places where signals are at a distance of less than 100 metres. Reddy said that before installing a signal, detailed ground assessment is done. A team of police officials is stationed to take note of the rising Passenger Car Unit (PCU) density, road details and presence of residential, commercial, medical and educational institutions. The volume of traffic, pedestrian crossings and intersections are also noted while installing a signal.

A traffic police official, seeking anonymity, said the number of signals is only rising as traffic police officials are finding it difficult to streamline movement. It has also been noted that people are not following traffic rules at most of the newly installed signals, so police officials are stationed on duty at the same junctions, to ensure that rules are followed. This is becoming a futile exercise.

As per traffic police department records, the city has a road network of 14,000km with around 44,000 intersections and 1.2 crore registered vehicles plying. The department is also taking stock of the number of traffic signals in other cosmopolitan cities to compare with the city, and find out if Bengaluru has a few too many.

COCHIN PORT
कोचिन पत्तन प्राधिकरण
Cochin Port Authority

TENDER NOTICE

Lease of 22.38 ha (55.30 acres) of Port land at South End of Willingdon Island for Commercial / Hospitality activities for 30 years, with an option for renewal after 30 years for a further maximum period of 30 years. For details contact undersigned or visit
www.cochinport.gov.in
Sd/-
Cochin-9 SECRETARY
15.01.2026 Ph: 0484-2582103
E-mail: secretary@cochinport.gov.in

ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಆಫ್ ಬರೋಡಾ
बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda
Zonal Office – Mangaluru,
Vijaya Towers, MSRS Road,
Mangaluru – 575 003,
Ph: 0824-2413946, 9946611936

PROVIDING SECURITY SYSTEM SERVICES

Bank of Baroda, Zonal Office, Mangaluru invites sealed tenders in two bid system from eligible firms for the following Security Equipment:
1. CCTVs
2. Alarm Systems
3. Fire Extinguishers
for different Branches/Offices under Mangaluru Zone in Karnataka state. For details, please visit Bank's website:
https://bankofbaroda.bank.in/tenders/zonal-regional-offices.
The last Date of submission of bids is 12.02.2026 up to 17:00 hrs.

Sd/-
General Manager & Zonal Head
Place: Mangaluru
Date: 16.01.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Clients Mr. N. Mohan Kumar is intending to purchase below mentioned Schedule Properties from its absolute owner Mr. Anthonappa S/o. Late. Anthonappa, Aged about 62 years R/a. 1625, Begur Road, Near St. Francis School, Amalodbhava Nagara, Bangalore South Taluk such of those person/s who are having any right, title, interest and/or any claim in and over the said property may lodge their claims if any with under signed along with relevant documents within 7 days, failing which my client may proceed to purchase as if no claims' forth coming and it is deemed free from all encumbrances. No claims are entertained beyond time prescribed.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing New Site No. 3075/239/4 (old Site no. 4 and 5) situated in the converted land bearing Sy. No. 239/2 as per official memorandum dated 23-11-2023 bearing No. 540371 issued by office of the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore City and situated at Begur Village, Begur Road, Bangalore-560 114 bearing New e-katha No. 3951215780
Measuring
East to West : 40 feet/ 12.2 meters
North to South : 60' feet / 18.3 meters
Totally 2400 Sq. feet/223.0 Sq. meters
And bounded on :-
East by : Property of Chinnappa 238/2 (old 239/2.), West by : 17' feet Private Road and Property bearing Sy No.239/1, North by : Site No. 3, South by : Road.
Along with a Shed of ACC Sheet and cement flooring.
Sunitha.M, Advocates,
M/s. SM Associates,
No. 75, 6th Block Jayanagar,
Opp: Yediyur Ganesha Temple,
Bangalore-560070 Ph: 9742619477
Bangalore Date : 19-01-2026

IN THE COURT OF ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AT DEVANAHALLI
C. Mis. 710/2025
PETITIONERS: 1. Vijayalakshmi, W/o Late B.J. Raman, aged about 62 yrs, Residing at #21, 12th Cross, Pelekammanagara, Chikkajala, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru-562157. 2. B. R. Prakash, S/o Late B.J. Raman, aged about 49 yrs, Residing at #81/B1, Kumbarahalli near government school, Hesaraghatta main road, Chikkabenavara post, Bengaluru-560090
-V/s-
RESPONDENTS: Tahsildar, Yelahanka Taluk, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064
PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas, the above named Petitioners have made petition in C.Mis. 710/2025 to this Court under 13(3) of Birth & Death Registration Act, for grant of Death Certificate in favour of the Petitioners in respect of death of deceased Smt. Nagalakshmi, W/o Late Jagannatha Shastry, who is the mother-in-law of 1st Petitioner and grandmother of 2nd Petitioner, as she died on 11.03.1998, at Beguru village. The said death certificate is required for documentation purpose and to maintain family records. Interested parties are hereby called to appear in this Court in person or by pleader duly instructed on 25/02/2026 at 11:00 A.M to show cause against the Petitioners failing which the appearance will be heard and decided ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 12/01/2026 at Bengaluru.
By order of the Court, Chief Ministerial Officer, Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli
S.K. NAGARATHNA & SHYAMALA BHUSHAN
Advocates
No.7-143, Bazzar Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is hereby put to notice that my client Smt. Manjula and her family members, residing at Iggaluru Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District, has intends to execute the deed of cancellation of a sale agreement dated 03.10.2015 bearing registration No.ANK-1-02885/2015-16, in C.D. No. ANKD395, registered in the Office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Anekal and General Power of Attorney dated 03.10.2015, bearing Registration No.ANK-4-00271/2015-16, in CD No.ANKD395, registered in the Office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Anekal, in respect of property/land bearing Sy.No.2, measuring 0.03.8 guntas, (Three and Half Guntas) out of 2 acres 8½ guntas, situated at Iggaluru Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District, and bounded on East by : Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Private Property and South by: Land belongs to K.H.B., alleged to have been executed in favour of Sri. N. Ramesh Reddy, Son of Narijundareddy, residing at KSRTC Colony, Hosur Main Road, Anekal Town, Bengaluru District-562 106.
Any person/s having any manner of claim, right, title and interest over the schedule property are hereby notified to register their claim/s with copies of document/s with the undersigned, within 7 days from date of Publication of this public Notice. If no objection/s or claim/s is registered, my client shall proceed to execute the deed of cancellation of a sale agreement and GPA both dated 03.10.2015. If, any claim/s received beyond 7 days from the date of publication of this public notice shall not be considered.
: SCHEDULE PROPERTY:
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy.No.2, measuring 0.03.8 guntas, (Three and Half Guntas) out of 2 acres 8½ guntas, situated at Iggaluru Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District, and bounded on: East by: Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Private Property South by : Land belongs to K.H.B.
SOMASHEKARA K.M., LOKESH M. Advocate, No.61, 1ST Main Road, Near Mahalakshmi Temple/ Hyundai Showroom, Behind Cauvery Theater, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru-560 003 Mobile No.99453 03073, 81529 94859

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the Original sale Deed dated 7th August 2014 exe-cuted by Krishnappa & others and M C Developers in favour of Koushitha pertaining to the Schedule B Property, registered as Document No. ABL-1-03699-2014-15 in the Office of the Sub Registrar, Attibele, Anekal Taluk is either lost or misplaced. A Complaint in this regard has been lodged with Bangalore City Police (LR No. 1954391/2025).
Any person having possession of the above mentioned Original Document may kindly hand over the same to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that the document has been lost.
SCHEDULE A PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of converted land measuring 19 Acre and 321/2 guntas in survey Nos 22, Bommandanahalli Village 63/1, 63/2, 63/3, 84/1, 68/1, 69/1, 69/2, 69/3. 69/4 and 69/5 situated at Dyavasandra Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore.
SCHEDULE B PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing site No. 314, Khatha No. 73/314,PID No. 150200102800220253 formed in Sy No. 63.2 of Dyavasandra Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk measuring 1500 sq ft and bounded by: East by: Road, West by : Site No. 323, South by : Site No. 313, North by : Site No. 315.
USHA PATIL, Advocate
Flat No. 302, Gokul Apts, 2nd Main,
G M Palya, Bangalore - 560075

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client Uttam Ghow and Smt. Pranati Ghow is intending to purchase below mentioned Schedule Properties from its absolute owner Sri. R.Muniyappa S/o. Late. Ramaiah such of those person/s who are having any right, title, interest and/or any claim in and over the said property may lodge their claims if any with under signed along with relevant documents within 7 days, failing which my client may proceed to purchase as if no claims' forth coming and it is deemed free from all encumbrances'. No claims are entertained beyond time prescribed.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No. 71 (Old PID No. 50-76-71), BBMP Ward No. 143 -Visveshwarapuram; Situated at Sri Ramachandira Road, Basavanagudi, Lalbagh Metro, Bangalore-560 004 bearing new e-pid No. 2890004956.
Measuring
East to West : 23+39/2 feet
North to South : 30+33/2 feet
And bounded on :-
East by : Road, West by : Conservancy, North by : Property belonging to Uma Maheshwari, South by : Property belonging to K.C. Sivaprasad.
Along with a residential house measuring 2500 Sft. in Ground, first and second floor with RCC Roofing. Vitrified Tiles and Jungle wood doors.
Sunitha.M, Advocates,
M/s. SM Associates,
No. 75, 6th Block Jayanagar,
Opp: Yediyur Ganesha Temple,
Bangalore-560070 Ph: 9742619477
Bangalore Date : 19-01-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client, intends to purchase the Schedule Property described hereunder from the following persons: 1. Paul Santosh Dominick, 2. Teresa Nalini Dominick, 3. Joseph Praveen Dominick, 4. A. A. Dominick, 5. Maria Meera Dominick Fournier
Any person or persons having any claim, right, title, interest, lien, charge, mortgage, lease, inheritance, or objection of whatsoever nature in respect of the above-said property are hereby called upon to submit their objections in writing, along with supporting documents, within 07 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice, to the undersigned Advocate, failing which our client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above-named persons.
The Schedule Property bearing Municipal No. 29, situated at Nanjappa Main Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru, previously known as Site No. 37, Lakshmi Devi Block, Bengaluru, originally acquired from the House Building Co-operative Society Ltd. Bengaluru, and now falling under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), bearing PID No. 06732577, Ward No. 117, measuring a total extent of 293.6 Sq. Meters (3160 Sq. Feet), is proposed to be dealt with.
BOUNDARIES OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY: East by: Nulia, West by: Site No. 36, North by: Site Nos. 26 and 27, South by: 30 Feet Road
If no objections are received within the stipulated time, it shall be presumed that there are no claims or objections from any person, and further action shall be taken accordingly.
Sd/- K.P ASSOCIATES
YESHWANTH .L
Advocates And Legal Consultants
Office At: No. 32, Appaji Rao Lane,
C.T. Street Cross, Bengaluru-560002
Mob No. 8971333233, 9241386992.
Date: 17-01-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, the undersigned advocate on behalf of my client Raja and others has filed the above Petition for the death certificate of LATE T DORESWANY S/O LATE THIRUMALASWANY was died on 14/07/2021 at Kadigenahalli, Vidyanagara Cross, Bettahalasuru Post, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Karnataka-562157. If any parties who have objections may dispute regarding the same can appear before the Additional Civil Judge and JMFC at Devanahalli and date of hearing on 19/2/2026 at 11.00 A.M. in C.Mis.No.4/2026.
By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli
Smt. Chandrakala .B, Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to the General Public that my client SMT.H.N.ANNAPURNA, Wife of Sri.N.A.Nanjundaiah, has lost the original of Sale deed dated 19.03.2003 executed by Sri.Narayanaswamy and his son Sri.N.Anil Kumar represented by their GPA Holder Sri.B.L.Venkatesh in favour of Smt.H.N.Annapurna, which is registered as document No.30085/2002-03 in the office of Sub-Registrar, Bengaluru North Taluk in respect of property bearing Site No.33, Khatha No.4 formed in property Assessment No.175/3, situated at Chikkabanavara Village, Yeswanthpur Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk in the year 2024 in transit. In case the same is traced by anybody they should hand over the same to the undersigned and also in case anybody is having any claim, charge or interest over the said property, they shall lodge their objections with the undersigned within SEVEN DAYS from the date of Publication of this Notice.
D.S. BHAT, Advocate,
M/S BHAT ASSOCIATES,
1st Main, 5th Cross, Yeshwanthpur,
BENGALURU-560 022.
Mob : 9916994581
BENGALURU, DATE : 17.01.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are here by informed that my client Mrs. K.V. Sowbhagyamma W/o. V. Janadhan, Residing at #75, 10th Main Road, Manjunath Nagar, Rajajinagar Bangalore - 560010.
My client is the absolute owner is in the possession of the All that piece and parcel of property bearing property No. 75/A, E PID No. 3575196444 measuring east to west 4.57 meters north to south 15.24 meters, situated at west of chord road 3rd Phase, 1st Block, Now Comes Under the Limits of BBMP ward no.100, (Basaveshwaranagara) Bangalore and bounded on the:
East by : Site No.76,
West by : Site No.75,
North by : Road,
South by : Site No.56.
My client is possession of the aforesaid property. she has lost the Original Registered sale deed bearing Doc No.BDA-1-02470/2005-06 dated 24.05.2005 registered in Office the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore while travelling and she lodged the Police Complaint through online dated 17.01.2026 vide No.2013018/2026.
If any One found the above mentioned documents and having any claim or interest over the said property; he/she is requested to forward their claims along with the relevant documents to us within 07days of this public notice. If we do not receive any claim from any person within 07 days, it will be strictly presumed that this property is absolutely free from any claim or encumbrance and no one has any claim over this property and if any One found the above mentioned documents kindly contact below mentioned.
PREMA S DUBAE - ADVOCATE
FFD VI, 4th Floor Sampoorna Chambers,
Vasavi Temple Road, V.V. Puram
Bengluru-560004.
Ph. : 080-42053588/080-42296969

WIZZMONI FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED
(formerly Unimoni Financial Services Limited)
RO: N.G. 12 & 13 Ground Floor, North Block, Manipal Centre,
Dickenson Road, Bangalore - 560 042. CIN No. U85110KA1995PLC018175
PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by WIZZMONI FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED (formerly Unimoni Financial Services Limited) on 22.01.2026 at 10:00 am at the respective centers given below. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.
Auction Centre Address & Loan Nos: BANGALORE - MARATHAHALLI (BMI - SITE NO 21, SHOP NO 3 &4, ISTMTK REDDY COMPLEX, OUTER RINGMARATHAHALLI, BANGALORE - 560037, Contact:9845996600) 2143445.
(Reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned &/ postpone / cancel the auction without any prior notice)

QuoteExpress IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE > NELSON MANDELA

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda
Jalahalli Branch
No.12/10, MSR Main Road, Gokula, Jalahalli, Bengaluru-560054.

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY "APPENDIX-IV-A[See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on 05.03.2026 "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account. The details of Borrower/s/Mortgagor/s/Guarantor/s/ Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below :

Sl. No.	Name & address of Borrower/s, Mortgagor/s and Guarantor/ s	Give short description of the immovable/moveable property with known Encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-Auction	Reserve Price, EMD, Last Date of EMD Amount and Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1	M/s Suvastra India, (Applicant) Partners: Mr. B. Karthigeyan, M/s Supreme HealthCare (Bangalore) Pvt. Ltd. No.18, Sree Rama Nilaya, Poornapura, Sundar Nagar, Gokula Ist Main Road, Bangalore –560054 Guarantors: 1.M/s Supreme Health care Private Limited, 68, 1st Floor, Poornapura, Sundar, Nagar, Gokula, Bangaluru Jalahalli – 560064 2. Mr. Karthigeyan B, 401, 4th floor, Renaissance wood 2, Jarakabanda forest road, Jalahalli west, Bangaluru – 560015. 3. Mrs Soorya M Krishnan, 401 4th floor, Renaissance wood 2, Jarakabanda forest road, Jalahalli west, Bangalore – 560015. 4. Mr. Amarnath Shetty, No.44, 11th Cross Shirdi layout, Kanshiram Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560054 5. Raghavendra S, O S No.12, 2nd Main, 1st Cross Road, Near M S Ramaiah Residence, Bangaluru, Karnataka- 560054 6.Rajendra Sambhavan, OS. 2,1st Cross, Sundaragar, Karnataka 560054. 7. Rajeshwari R , Os.2, 1st Cross, Sundamagar ,Pumapura, Bangaluru North, Karnataka, Bangalore- 560054	SCHEDULE of PROPERTY Vacant land measuring an extent of 2,250 sq.ft. bearing plot No.76 in 'Ramamurthy Avenue' approved lay out PPD/LO No.97/93, Sy.No.18/1 Part, situated in Kolapakkam village, Sriperumbadur Taluk, Kancheepuram District, Patta No.578, standing in the name of Mr. B. Karthigeyan and land bounded on: North by: Plot No. 77, South by: 24 feet Road, East by:Plot No. 75, West by: 40 feet Ramamurthy Avenue 3rd Main Road. Standing in the name of Mr Karthigeyan Bhaskaran	Rs. 20.41 (Rupees Twenty Crores Fourty one lacs Only) as on 16-09-2025 plus Further interest and other charges. Branch: Jalahalli, Bengaluru	05.03.2026 & From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM	Reserve Price: Rs.1,15,83,000/- EMD: Rs. 11,58,300/- Last Date of EMD Amount: 04.03.2026 5.00PM Bid Increment Amount: Rs.50,000/-	Symbolic Possession	With Prior Appointment from authorized officer
2		SCHEDULE of PROPERTY Residential property bearing No.37 (old No.61/1), House Khatha No.224/1, VP Khatha No.1602/224/1 and BBMP Khatha No.1602/ 224/1/61/1/37 situated at Horamavu Agara village, K.R.Puram, Hobli Bangalore South Taluk, standing in the name of Mrs. Soorya M. Krishnan. Orientation of Property :- East: 30" Road / Site no 40 / Pvt Property West: Site no 40 / Pvt Property North: Site no 38 / Pvt Property South: Site no 36 / Pvt Property	Rs. 20.41 (Rupees Twenty Crores Fourty one lacs Only) as on 16-09-2025 plus Further interest and other charges. Branch: Jalahalli, Bengaluru	05.03.2026 & From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM	Reserve Price: Rs. 1,29,60,000/- EMD: Rs. 12,96,000/- Last Date of EMD Amount: 04.03.2026 5.00PM Bid Increment Amount: Rs.50,000/-	Symbolic Possession	With Prior Appointment from authorized officer
3		SCHEDULE of PROPERTY Flat bearing No.303, 2nd Floor, 'A' Block, "Gokula Dwellington Apartment" situated at Municipal No.86/18, Old Municipal No. SF-303, PID No.2-226-86/18, Khatha No.86 Sy.No.30,36 & 37 situated at M. S. Ramaiah Road, Poornapura village, Kasaba Hobli Bangaluru North Taluk, BBMP Ward No.2, Bangaluru with super built up area of 1,214.16 sq.ft. , along with car parking, interiors & amenities along with undivided share of land 510.18 sq.ft. standing in the name of Mr. B. Karthigeyan on the whole bounded on: East by: Divya MSR Apartments, West by: Shriram Sadhana Apartments, North by: 40 feet Road South by: 30 feet Road.	Rs. 20.41 (Rupees Twenty Crores Fourty one lacs Only) as on 16-09-2025 plus Further interest and other charges. Branch: Jalahalli, Bengaluru	05.03.2026 & From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM	Reserve Price: Rs. 1,01,27,000/- EMD: Rs. 10,12,700/- Last Date of EMD Amount: 04.03.2026 5.00PM Bid Increment Amount: Rs.50,000/-	Symbolic Possession	With Prior Appointment from authorized officer
4		SCHEDULE of PROPERTY Commercial property with building bearing Municipal No.68, PID No.2-112-68 at Pipeline Road, Chennappa Garden, Poornapura Sundar Nagar, Gokula Post, Bangalore 560 054, measuring east to west: 87+62/2 feet and North to South 44+58.50 feet totally measuring area of 3,818.125 sq.ft., and super built up area of 4,500 sq.ft. along with sump, OHT, compound wall on the whole, standing in the name of M/s Supreme Healthcare (Bangalore) Private Limited, bounded on: East by: Private property; West by: 30 feet road; North by: Remaining portion of the property, South by: Land belonging to railway Department.	Rs. 20.41 (Rupees Twenty Crores Fourty one lacs Only) as on 16-09-2025 plus Further interest and other charges. Branch: Jalahalli, Bengaluru	05.03.2026 & From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM	Reserve Price: Rs. 4,47,52,500/- EMD: Rs. 44,75,250/- Last Date of EMD Amount: 04.03.2026 5.00PM Bid Increment Amount: Rs.50,000/-	Symbolic Possession	With Prior Appointment from authorized officer
5		SCHEDULE of PROPERTY Flat bearing No.401 & 406, 4th Floor, "Renaissance HVV Woods -2"bearing Municipal No. PID No 43(p) -23-406 & 43 (P)-18-401 , Survey No. 43 , New No 43(P) of J. B Kaval Village, BBMP Ward no 11 Kuvempu nagar Ward, Yelhanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk , Bangalore-560015 in the name of Mr Karthigeyan B & Mrs Soorya M Krishnan. Boundaries of property:- East by: Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Northern Portion of SY no 43 belonging to the developer herein, South by: Triangular shaped land & hence no boundary on the southern side	Rs. 20.41 (Rupees Twenty Crores Fourty one lacs Only) as on 16-09-2025 plus Further interest and other charges. Branch: Jalahalli, Bengaluru	05.03.2026 & From 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM	Reserve Price: Rs. 2,75,05,800/- EMD: Rs. 27,50,580/- Last Date of EMD Amount: 04.03.2026 5.00PM Bid Increment Amount: Rs. 50,000/-	Symbolic Possession	With Prior Appointment from authorized officer

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction and online auction portal Baanknet.com Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on Tel No: 080-25011368.

Note: All charges including property tax, Electricity charges, Water Bills and Maintenance charges etc if any other charges shall be borne by the successful bidder only.

Date: 14.01.2026
Place:- Bengaluru
Authorised Officer,
Bank of Baroda

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

KARNATAKA

04 BENGALURU MONDAY 19.01.2026 newindianexpress.com

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the Veer Bhoomi Museum, developed at Nandgad to commemorate the life and martyrdom of freedom fighter Krantiveer Sangolli Rayanna, on Monday

Even after a month of losing their homes to the 'machines of demolition' under the pretext of an 'encroachment clearance' drive by Greater Bengaluru Authority's Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited, dwellers continue to shiver in chilly weather, awaiting rehabilitation and the promised free homes from the government. The state cannot cite and hide behind procedural rigmarole in ensuring justice for the displaced

PIC: KEVIN NASHON

NO CITY FOR MIGRANTS

MOHAMMED YACOOB & AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

CAUGHT in the deeply woven web of inefficient administration, poor legislation and meagre pay, the migrant population continues to struggle with no way out, being the most neglected by both the government and those who employ them. From being forced to live in shanties with no access to even basic needs, to not getting paid well to lead a decent life, the struggles of migrants are never-ending.

The growth story of leading Indian cities, including Bengaluru, is incomplete without migrants. They have been the backbone of the city; their hardship and sweat are what make India's Silicon Valley, Bengaluru, look all rosy on the outside, but the migrants who work and toil are forced to lead an unjust life.

Migration not an aspiration

Millions of people are compelled to leave their native towns and cities -- some leave in search of better opportunities, while in the case of migrants, they leave home simply to survive.

Babu Mathew, who is known for his trade union movements and for being part of social movements, including displacement and destruction of livelihood of the marginalized, said: "India's development paradox is no longer hidden. We celebrate mobility as progress, yet refuse to confront what it reveals: that millions are compelled to leave home simply to survive. Buses carrying workers to distant construction sites, every remittance sustaining a 'money order economy', is a quiet indictment of uneven development. Migration, in such conditions, is not aspiration, it is resilience in the face of State withdrawal."

"The agrarian crisis in Karnataka has followed this familiar script. Shrinking landholdings, rising input costs, debt and stagnant rural employment have pushed large sections of the Ahinda block, the poor, marginalised and dispossessed out of the countryside and into the informal margins of Bengaluru. These are not people who arrived by choice. They were expelled by economic distress and policy failure," Mathew said.

Power through procedure

Indian constitutional law is clear. The Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the Right to Housing is an integral part of the fundamental Right to Life under Article 21. Assistant Professor of Law, National Law School of India University (NLSIU) Bengaluru, Aditi Thakur said, "At the heart of constitutionalism lies a simple but non-negotiable idea: power must be exercised through procedure, not impulse. Two principles of natural justice are universally accepted across legal systems. First, no person shall be condemned unheard. Second, no one shall be a judge in their own cause. In the recent unilateral demolitions on the outskirts of Bengaluru, both principles have been violated, ironically by parastatal bodies entrusted with upholding legality."

"The decision-maker, the judge, and the purported remedy-provider have all been rolled into the same administrative authority. It violates the constitutional commitment to the separation of powers and replaces the rule of law with administrative will. Offering vague assurances of future rehabilitation does not cure the original illegality. An unlawful act cannot be sanitised by a discretionary promise," she said.

Stressing that the government is not the owner of the land but just a custodian, BK Nandini, a member of Dhudiyuva Janara Vedike, said, "The government describes the land in Kogilu Layout as 'government land', but in law and public policy, such land is actually common land held in trust by the State for the people."

BIG PICTURE

Nandini recalled, "We have seen this earlier in places like Ejipura, where land meant for economically weaker sections was diverted to private developers. This shows that demolitions are often linked not to public interest, but to the rising commercial value of land. That makes the Kogilu demolition deeply unjust."

Citing the AT Ramaswamy Committee Report, she said that over 13,000 acres of public land in Bengaluru are encroached, and questioned why the government isn't acting uniformly against all illegal occupations, including those by powerful builders, elite and commercial interests. She said the poor are targeted, and urged that encroached lands be released and used for housing for the poor.

Govt agencies' failure

Owais Hussain S, advocate from the law firm The Legal Attorney and Barristers, said while the residents at Kogilu may be migrants and put up shanties, in the case of Thanisandra, where 40 homes were razed, many have been residing for the past 25 years and were paying property tax to the civic body.

"The government is to be blamed for the mess. Parastatal agencies like the departments of Revenue and Stamps and Registration, officials of Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) and Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) should have verified the status of the land. Had the poor residents been alerted about Bengaluru Development Authority land acquisition, they would not have settled in the place," said Hussain and added that all these settlers had paid lakhs of rupees. In November, a family got their property registered by paying Rs 3.9 lakh.

"There is a nasty network between government officials, greedy landlords and brokers, and they pass on such contentious land to the gullible public," he stressed.

Unfair to label migrants as Bangladeshis

Among the major accusations against Kogilu dwellers is that they were called Bangladeshis, and the BJP, including others, questioned the lightning speed with which the Congress government announced that the dwellers would be given alternative housing freely, while pointing out that there were hundreds of eligible applicants who have been waiting for years for land allotment.

Replying to allegations and labelling dwellers at Kogilu as Bangladeshis, Issac Arul Selva, a human rights activist with a focus on marginalised communities in urban areas, said, "The same allegation was placed on dwellers in Munnekolala near Marathahalli. Later, it was found that they were migrants not even from other parts of India, but from North Karnataka. The government paid a meagre compensation of Rs 40,000 to around 40 families."

He said the onus of preventing infiltration of immigrants from foreign nations to India is with the Union government, and they need to act on it.

As states like Tamil Nadu and Kerala have seen multi-faceted development, the number of migrants from these states to Karnataka has reduced drastically, and some have even chosen to return, he said, adding that the current migrants in Bengaluru are primarily from North Indian and Northeastern states.

Both Nandini and Arul Selva said encroachments do not happen in isolation and happen mostly because cities attract workers, including migrants, governments and private employers fail to create low-income housing, land records are unclear, and local authorities allow informal settlements to grow for years.

"People do not wake up one day and decide to 'encroach'. They come to cities to survive. When the government fails to plan for housing, settlements grow. Punishing the poor for this failure while ignoring illegalities by powerful actors is not governance, it is selective injustice," Nandini explained, as she described the helplessness of neglected migrants.

She said migrants come to cities to work as cleaners, construction workers, waste pickers, security guards and domestic workers, the people who make cities function. "But rents are too high, wages are too low, and public housing is inadequate. So people live in informal settlements, often paying small rents even there. Slums are not created by migrants; they are created by failure of urban planning and housing policy," Nandini added.

In situ devpt versus movement with dignity

"India today stands at a critical dialectic: in situ development versus movement with dignity. These are not rival ideas. They are reflections of one another. When staying is dignified, movement becomes voluntary. When movement is dignified, staying becomes meaningful," Prof Aditi Thakur said, adding that, "Migration in India is a fundamental right, flowing from the freedom of movement and occupation. It is not a pathology to be cured. Yet when a right becomes a necessity, when people are forced to move because staying is impossible, its dignity is lost. The State first fails to create the conditions for dignified staying through agrarian neglect, and then criminalises survival in the city through demolition. This is a constitutional failure twice over."

"Urban economies depend on migrant labour even as they deny migrants belonging. Workers build our cities, cook our food, power our factories, yet remain politically invisible. This invisibility enables exploitation and makes acts of demolition appear administratively neutral rather than morally catastrophic. What is demolished is not merely shelter, but recognition itself," the professor said.

"What makes this moment especially tragic is its hypocrisy. How can governments campaign to 'save the Constitution' while dismantling its foundations in everyday governance?" Aditi questioned.

Failure to organise migration

Migration happens due to multiple reasons. While the government cannot address everything, it can take measures to reduce climate change migration caused by floods, drought and others triggered by climate change, said Arul Selva. He said that despite owning acres of land in their native villages or towns, there are many migrants from rural Karnataka doing menial jobs in Bengaluru.

On what can be done by state governments immediately to prevent the mushrooming of settlements, Arul Selva said each government must compile a list of labourers and their skill sets, who are ready to work, and those state governments and private employers can contact the respective states and get the labourers. "For example, if Assam posts that there are over 10,000 labourers available, if Karnataka or Tamil Nadu needs them, we can get them. The government and private employers must provide housing to the migrants," he recommended and said this will ensure that migrants have a house with basic facilities, doing away with the need of erecting sheds.

Experts highlighted that the rate of housing for the needy is not in line with the increasing population, and the Karnataka Slum Development Board isn't pumped with adequate funds to carry out its role effectively.

Dhudiyuva Janara Vedike batted for a zero-eviction policy and regularisation of slums.

Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan had announced that Kogilu dwellers would be handed homes at Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation's building at Byappanahalli near Chagalahatti on January 1 by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. However, after widespread criticism of favouring a section, the decision was deferred under the pretext of 'comprehensive document verification', and dwellers continue to suffer.

Experts and activists said that city planning must include land for migrant workers and cautioned that without that, demolitions will keep repeating. Providing housing is the constitutional responsibility of the government. At the same time, delays in housing for other poor families are also wrong. Political parties must not pit one poor community against another. The solution is to expand housing for all, not deny it to those who are forcibly evicted, they asserted.

Amid grand rituals, Shiroor seer ascends Sarvajna Peeta

Sri Vedavardhana Theertha Swamiji of Shiroor Mutt and pontiffs of other mutts before the commencement of the paryaya procession at Jodukatte on Sunday

PRAKASH SAMAGA @ Udupi

ASCENDING the Sarvajna Peeta at Sri Krishna Mutt in the wee hours of Sunday, Shiroor Mutt Seer Sri Vedavardhana Theertha Swamiji said worshipping Lord Krishna in Udupi is not just a ritual, but a great responsibility for spreading the Lord's message to the universe.

Participating in 'Paryaya Darbar' at Rajangana here, the pontiff said divinity resides in every human and non-human being. "Every human being and all the creatures on the earth must be loved," he said and urged devotees in faraway places to come to the mutt during the holidays and serve as volunteers. Volunteering for the people's cause is necessary at religious institutions, he said.

Earlier, a grand Paryaya procession began at Jodukatte and elaborate rituals were conducted at the mutt. He said Vedas are essential for life. Though Mahabharata and Ramayana came later, they were for the common people to understand the essence of religion. Vedas carry a lot of importance, he asserted and called upon the people to imbibe the qualities propagated by the teachings in the Vedas.

Sri Vidyadheesha Theertha Swamiji of Sri Palimar Mutt, Sri Vishwavallabha Theertha Swamiji of Sri Sode Mutt, Sri Ishapriya Theertha Swamiji of Sri Admar Mutt, Dharmadhikari of Sri Kshetra Dharmasthala and Rajya Sabha MP D Veerendra Heggade and Mysuru MP Yaduveer Wadiyar also spoke on the occasion.

Procession, tableaux mark new paryaya tenure

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Udupi

SRI Vedavardhana Theertha Swamiji of Shiroor Mutt become the youngest seer to ascend the Sarvajna Peetha and perform pooja to Lord Krishna on Sunday.

A grand paryaya procession commenced from Jodukatte in the early hours of Sunday and saw the participation of thousands of devotees and display of various tableaux. By early morning, the procession reached Car Street and the pontiff had darshan of Lord Krishna through 'Kanakana Kindi', followed by darshan of Sri Chandramoulishwara and Sri Ananteshwara. Later, he ascended the Sarvajna Peeta. The keys of the mutt and the Akshaya Patra were formally handed over to him by outgoing Puthige Mutt Seer Sri Sugunendra Theertha Swamiji.

Sri Sugunendra Theertha Swamiji hands over the 'Akshya Patra' and keys of Sri Krishna Mutt to Sri Vedavardhana Theertha Swamiji

The traditional darbar and Malike Mangalarati to the pontiffs of Ashta Mutts were held at Aralu Gadduge of Badagu Malige. Later 'Paryaya Darbar' took place at Rajangana where the Ashta Mutt pontiffs and the Paryaya Mutt seer delivered benedictory messages, followed by the Mahapuja and Pallapuja to Lord Sri Krishna. As part of the Paryaya Mahotsav, annadana for about 40,000 devotees was organised on the night of January 17 at Sri Nityananda Swami Temple and at the Sri Krishna Mutt parking area. Anna Santharpane for around 50,000 people was held from 11.30 am on January 18 at the Krishna Mutt parking area.

EXPRESS READ

Cong plans 5-km walk to oppose repeal of MGNREGA

Bengaluru: The Congress will take out a 5-km 'padayatra' in each Assembly constituency of the state to mobilise public support against the Union government replacing the MGNREGA with the VB-G RAM G. After a video conference with AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal, Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D K Shivakumar told reporters that a resolution will be issued at the panchayat level and a meeting will be held on the issue.

"We will fight against the repeal of MGNREGA. A meeting of panchayat members has already been held. A meeting of MLAs, MLCs, party office bearers, MPs and Block Congress presidents has also been held," he said. He also informed that Venugopal and AICC General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala are likely to visit the state. ENS

JDS unlikely to invite GTD to its Hassan rally

Bengaluru: The JDS, which has removed its senior leader, Chamundeshwari MLA G T Devegowda, as the party's core committee chief is unlikely to invite him for the mega rally slated to be held in Hassan on January 24. Former KR Nagar MLA Sa Ra Mahesh, who led a delegation to discuss the preparations for the rally with JDS supremo H D Deve Gowda on Sunday, said the party is in no mood to placate the sulking G T Devegowda. " He (GT Devegowda) was sulking during 2006 and in 2013, (party leader) H D Kumaraswamy had said that the party's door was closed to the former. But we managed to bring him back to the party's fold. But no one is in a mood to placate him now," he said. ENS

₹320-cr bonanza in Varuna: CM's legacy move or parting signal?

KARTHIK K K @ Mysuru

EVEN before presenting the state budget, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has given a pre-budget gift to his home turf Varuna Assembly constituency, triggering intense political debate across the state. By laying the foundation stone for development works worth over Rs 320 crore, Siddaramaiah has once again placed Varuna at the centre of the state's political discourse raising a crucial question: Is this a parting gift amid leadership speculation, or a calculated move to cement his legacy?

The timing of the mega foundation-laying ceremony is politically significant. With speculation rife over a possible change of guard in the Congress government, Siddaramaiah chose to make a strong statement from the constituency he represents and nurtured for decades. While Congress leaders in the district see the move as both symbolic and strategic, signalling authority and continuity, his close aides call it a message that governance, not rumours, defines his leadership.

Siddaramaiah, who now holds the record of being the longest-serving chief minister, launched 154 works spanning 15 departments at an event in Kuppya village coming under Varuna constituency on Sunday. The projects range from infrastructure and urban development to health and social welfare, showcasing a long-term vision rather than short-term optics.

The highlight among the projects is the Rs 100-crore NIMHANS extension and de-addiction centre, a landmark initiative aimed at strengthening mental health services and tackling alcohol abuse, an issue increasingly affecting rural and urban parts of the state.

Congress leaders welcome Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during the foundation stone laying ceremony for development works at Varuna constituency on Sunday | EXPRESS

Siddaramaiah stressed his emotional bond with Varuna during the event and stated that his responsibility to the people goes beyond electoral cycles. He said in 2024, he had launched a slew of development works worth Rs 501 crore, in 2025, he had launched Rs 1,108-crore worth projects and now even before the budget, Rs 320-crore work has been taken up, totalling nearly Rs 1,932 crore in the last two-and-a-half years in Varuna constituency alone.

He also said in Mysuru district alone, nearly Rs 10,000 crore worth of welfare and development programmes have been taken and said it is his duty to ensure lasting development in Mysuru.

However, the scale of the announcements, especially before the budget and amid the speculation over change of guard in the state, has sparked a debate in political circles whether Siddaramaiah is preparing the ground for the future, possibly for his family or the next generation of leadership from Varuna, or is this a final flourish amid uncertainty over his continuation as CM.

While Congress leaders say that there is no leadership question, opposition parties argue the move resembles a farewell development package.

CM caught in Suttur Jatra traffic snarl

Mysuru: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was briefly caught in a traffic jam while returning from the Suttur Jatra Mahotsava near Mysuru on Sunday. It led to widespread discussions after visuals of the incident surfaced on social media. Heavy vehicular movement and a large gathering of devotees returning after the mega religious event at Suttur Sri Kshetra resulted in traffic jams on the route. The police were seen struggling to clear the traffic and ensure smooth passage for the CM's convoy, which was stuck for several minutes. In the melee, a motorcyclist attempted to move between vehicles and a KSRTC bus, disrupting traffic further. In the video, Mysuru Superintendent of Police Mallikarjun Baladandi is appearing to move towards the biker angrily, seemingly to confront him physically, but restraining himself at the last moment. Though officials were successful in making way for the convoy to move, the situation remained the same for over 15 minutes.

Two college students drowned in a stream near Garaganduru, Kodagu on Saturday evening. The deceased were identified as Mohammed Riaz (16) and Mohammed Nihal (16) of Chennamma Junior College. The bodies were retrieved by swimmers and police and handed over to the family after the postmortem

Crimes against SC/STs rise 37.7% in five years

Bengaluru tops list, followed by Tumakuru and Belagavi

RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

DESPITE stringent laws to prevent atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/STs) in the state, crimes against these communities increased by 37.74 % over the last five years, rising from 1,751 cases in 2021 to 2,412 cases in 2025. Shockingly, Bengaluru, the IT capital of the country, tops the list, followed by Tumakuru, the hometown of Home Minister G Parameshwara.

According to data, 10,573 cases were registered in the state over the last five years. Of these, 1,598 were found to be false, 47 resulted in conviction, and 1,050 cases ended in acquittal or discharge. In 2025, 2,412 cases were registered across the state. Bengaluru City accounted for the highest number of 261 cases, followed by Tumakuru (139), Belagavi (128) and Raichur (121).

To strengthen enforcement and ensure focused investigation, the state government set up 33 Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE) police stations in April 2025 to exclusively handle and investigate cases related to atrocities against SC/STs.

Advocate Rajalaxmi Ankalagi said the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, was enacted to eradicate caste-based discrimination. Earlier, atrocity cases largely involved complaints of physical abuse, casteist slurs or harassment. However, in recent years, inter-caste love affairs and marriages are increasingly being brought under the Act. "Relationships that were once treated as personal matters are sometimes given a criminal colour because families oppose inter-caste unions. The Constitution does not prohibit inter-caste marriage or relationships. Individuals are free to choose their life partners," she said.

She pointed out that many youngsters studying in cities may not initially face discrimination, but caste prejudice becomes evident once they enter workplaces or return to their hometowns. At the same time, genuine victims continue to face systemic barriers, she added.

Another advocate, who did not wish to be named, cited instances where complaints by Dalit victims against influential persons were initially ignored or discouraged by the police. "In such cases, the entire machinery often works to suppress the complaint, defeating the very purpose of the Act," she said.

While there may be isolated instances of false complaints, a senior police officer said they should not overshadow genuine cases, especially when conviction rates remain low due to difficulties in collecting evidence. "Police must act with sensitivity and an open mind. The law must be enforced firmly, fairly and without prejudice," he added.

Statistics of crimes against SC/STs in Karnataka

Year	Cases	Conviction	Acquittal	false
2021	1,751	8	258	304
2022	2,138	11	324	398
2023	2,157	16	300	388
2024	2,115	9	145	342
2025	2,412	3	22	168

District	Cases
Bengaluru City	261
Tumakuru	139
Belagavi	128
Raichur	121
Hassan	116

DCRE POLICE STATIONS SET UP TO PREVENT SC/ST ATROCITIES: HM

Bengaluru: Home Minister G Parameshwara on Sunday said Karnataka has set up Directorate of Civil Rights Enforcement (DCRE) police stations, the first such in the country, to prevent atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Key issues including crowd control, cybercrime, terrorist activities, drug trafficking, illegal immigration, functioning of Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and other aspects of modern policing were discussed on the second day of the Annual Conference of Senior Police Officers, at Police Headquarters. Emphasising implementation, Parameshwara said, "Only then can the efficiency of state police be enhanced". He stressed zero-tolerance towards caste prejudice, and 'honour' killings. The DCRE stations would curb exploitation and oppression of SC/ST communities. Warning against hateful content triggering unrest and riots, he directed police to initiate immediate legal action against those responsible, and curb such activities at the initial stage. He said law and order and overall development are interlinked, and states with poor policing often struggle economically due to low investments. "For 25 years, Karnataka has been viewed differently. Investments worth Rs 10 lakh crore have come into the state last year alone because of law enforcement," he said. On reports about illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, he questioned the role of local police. The 'Mane Manege Police' programme was introduced so police personnel would have detailed information about every locality.

VOICING SOCIAL ISSUES

Ashoka Theatre artistes perform musical play 'Aboriginal Cry' at Bengaluru Hubba 2026, at Sabha on Sunday. The play explores the struggles of communities displaced by six mega dam projects in Manipur without proper rehabilitation | KEVIN NASHON

Man who pulled out dagger on road arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN swift action, the Kadugodi police arrested a 25-year-old man over a road rage incident where he allegedly pulled out a dagger to threaten a car driver for reportedly overtaking very close to his two-wheeler. The incident occurred at a traffic junction near Nexus Shantiniketan Mall on Friday evening.

The accused, **Syed Arbaz**, works at a fish shop in RT Nagar and had four criminal cases registered against him at different police stations, including cases related to preparation for dacoity, bike theft and causing hurt, the police said.

The incident was recorded on dashcam and shared on X, tagging Bengaluru City Police. The Kadugodi police registered a suo motu case against the scooter rider on Saturday and arrested him on Sunday. Further investigation is under way.

EXPRESS READ

4 missing after falling into canal

Shivamogga: Four members of a family went missing after reportedly slipping and falling into the Bhadra Left Bank Canal in Bhadravathi taluk, at Arabailachi Camp on Sunday. The missing have been identified as Neelabai (50), her son Ravikumar (23), daughter Shwetha (24) and son-in-law Parashuram (28). Police suspect the family had gone to wash clothes and utensils when one of them slipped into the water. The others may have entered the canal one after another in a rescue attempt. Police were alerted after their belongings were found on banks of the canal, and family members had not returned home. A search operation is underway.

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II AT BANGALORE

BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore -560 001

O.A. No.420/2023

BETWEEN : BANK OF INDIA, J. C. Road Branch,No. 4/2, OTC Road, Off J. C. Road, Behind LIC Building, Near Sharada Talkies, Bangalore - 560 002. ...Applicant

Versus

M/s. Safaa Enterprises, [A Proprietor concern] Rep., by its Prop. & Another ....Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To, Defendants:

1. M/s. Safaa Enterprises [A Proprietor concern] Having its Head Office at : No.2/2, 11th Cross, Padarayanapura, Mysore Road, Bangalore - 560 026. Rep., By its Proprietor **Mrs. Sakeena Khan**

2. Mrs. Sakeena Khan, Aged about 41 years, W/o. Mr. Ratan Kumar Sarvan, No.2/2, 11th Cross, Padarayanapura, Mysore Road, Bangalore - 560 026.

Under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against the defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.66,93,871.45 ps** (Rupees Sixty Six Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy One and Paise Forty Five Only) together with current and future interest and other reliefs.

The above mentioned defendants are required to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate n support of their defense to show cause within 30 days or on **04.05.2026 at 10.30 a.m.** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the **23.12.2025**

By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II.

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II AT BANGALORE

BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore -560 001

O.A. No.1277/2023

BETWEEN : BANK OF INDIA, J. C. Road Branch,No. 4/2, OTC Road, Off J. C. Road, Behind LIC Building, Near Sharada Talkies, Bangalore - 560 002. ...Applicant

Versus

M/s. Evergreen Enterprises [A Proprietor concern] & Another ....Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To, Defendants:

1. M/s. Evergreen Enterprises [A Proprietor concern] No. 614, 7th C Cross, Sujatha Tent, Vijayanagar, Padarayanapura, Mysore Road, Bangalore - 560 026. Rep., By its Proprietor **Sri Ayaz Pasha**

2. Sri Ayaz Pasha, Aged about 34 years, S/o. Mr. Altaf Pasha, No. 38, Someshwara Gudibanda Taluk, Chikkaballapur - 562 101.

Under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against the defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.1,27,57,127.23 ps** (Rupees One Crore Twenty Seven Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty Seven and Paise Twenty Three Only) together with current and future interest and other reliefs.

The above mentioned defendants are required to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate n support of their defense to show cause within 30 days or on **24.02.2026 at 10.30 a.m.** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the **07.10.2025**

By Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II.

Regulation of Trains for Power & Traffic Block over Howrah Division

For re-girdering work of Bridge nos. 202, 206, 210, 212, 236, 264 in Nalhati-Gumani section and for the work of Limited Height subway at Level Crossing gate no. 25 between Rampurhat & Swadinpur stations over Howrah division, **Power & Traffic Block will be necessary on 25.01.2026 (Sunday).** Consequently, the following Trains will be regulated as under :- **•Cancellation of MEMU train on 25.01.2026 : 63434** Rampurhat-Azimganj MEMU Passenger. **• Rescheduling of down Express trains from source station : (1)13032** Jaynagar-Howrah Express (JCO 24.01.2026) by 4 hours. (2) **13174** Sabroom-Sealdah Kanchanjungha Express (JCO 24.01.2026) by 4 hours. (3) **12364** Haldibari-Kolkata Intercity Express (JCO 25.01.2026) by 3 hours. (4) **13018** Azimganj-Howrah Ganadevata Express (JCO 25.01.2026) by 1 hours 15 minutes. **• Rescheduling of Up Express train from source station : 13031** Howrah-Jaynagar Express (JCO 25.01.2026) by 1 hour 55 minutes. **• Diversion of Up Express trains :** (1) **12509** SMVT Bengaluru-Guwahati Superfast Express (JCO 23.01.2026) will be diverted via Andul-Howrah-Bandel-Katwa-Azimganj-New Farakka with stoppages at Bandel, Nabadwip Dham, Katwa, Khagraghat Road, Azimganj & Jangipur Road Station. (2) **13053** Howrah-Radhikapur Kulik Express (JCO 25.01.2026) will be diverted via Bandel-Katwa-Azimganj-New Farakka with stoppages at Bandel, Nabadwip Dham, Katwa, Khagraghat Road, Azimganj & Jangipur Road Station. (3) **13161** Kolkata-Balurghat Express (JCO 25.01.2026) will be diverted via Naihati-Bandel-Katwa-Azimganj-New Farakka with stoppages at Bandel, Nabadwip Dham, Katwa, Khagraghat Road, Azimganj & Jangipur Road Station. **•Short-termination/Short-origination on 25.01.2026 : 63063/63064** Barddhaman-Sahibganj- Barddhaman MEMU Passenger will short-terminate at/Short-originate from Rampurhat and **63007** Katwa-Rampurhat MEMU Passenger will short-terminate at Azimganj.**•Controlling of Express trains on 25.01.2026 : 22503** Kanyakumari-Dibrugarh Vivek Express will be controlled for 30 minutes in Kharagpur Division and **13427** Howrah-Sahibganj Intercity Express will be controlled for 15 minutes between Howrah & Rampurhat.

Special Note : (1) Special or late running trains & any further newly introduced train/Parcel train/TOD during the block period, if any, will be controlled/ diverted suitably enroute. Passengers are requested to follow the public address system of stations. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah

EASTERN RAILWAY

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE XXIII ADDL. CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT BANGALORE

Crl. Mis. No. 2443/2025

BETWEEN: 1. Sri. JAGADISH. H.K, S/o. Krishnappa, aged about 50 years, **2. Sri. KRISHNAPPA,** S/o. Late. Motappa, aged about 84 years, **3. Smt. PARVATHAMMA,** W/o. Krishnappa, aged about 77 years, All are R/at. No.356, Hoodi, Mahadevapura, Bangalore-560 048. **4. Smt. VIMALAMMA,** D/o. Krishnappa, aged about 63 years, R/at. Sarjapura Road, Kodthi Gate, Bangalore, **5. Sri. MOHAN SUNDAR,** S/o. Krishnappa, aged about 60 years, R/at. Hoodi, Mahadevapura Bangalore- 560 048. **6. Smt. VISHALA,** D/o. Krishnappa, aged about 47 years, R/at Kudlu Gate, Electronic City, Bangalore ...**PETITIONERS**

And: The Tahasildhar, Registrar of Births & Deaths, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore ...**RESPONDENT**

NOTICE

Whereas, the petitioners have filed the above petition U/s. 13(3) of the birth and death acts seeking direction to the Commissioner of BBMP, Bengaluru to register the death of the deceased is the grandfather of petitioner No.1, 3 to 6 and father in law of petitioner No.2 by name **Sri. MOTAPPA** S/o LATE. JUNJAPPA who died on 20-03-1967 at Kodathi Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore.

If any person interested in the matter may appear before Hon'ble XXIII ACJM at Bangalore, either personally or through an advocate duly instructed on **16/02/2026** at **11.00 AM.**, to which date the case is posted for hearing.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 14/01/2026.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristear, XXIII Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Bengaluru City

Advocate for Petitioners:
Raghavendra Rao J.V
No.33, opposite 10th Cross, Cubbonpet
Main Road, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru-560 002.

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE XXIII ADDL. CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT BANGALORE

Crl. Mis. No. 2444/2025

BETWEEN: 1. Sri. JAGADISH. H.K, S/o. Krishnappa, aged about 50 years, **2. Sri. KRISHNAPPA,** S/o. Late. Motappa, aged about 84 years, **3. Smt. PARVATHAMMA,** W/o. Krishnappa, aged about 77 years, All are R/at. No.356, Hoodi, Mahadevapura, Bangalore-560 048. **4. Smt. VIMALAMMA,** D/o. Krishnappa, aged about 63 years, R/at. Sarjapura Road, Kodthi Gate, Bangalore, **5. Sri. MOHAN SUNDAR,** S/o. Krishnappa, aged about 60 years, R/at. Hoodi, Mahadevapura Bangalore- 560 048. **6. Smt. VISHALA,** D/o. Krishnappa, aged about 47 years, R/at Kudlu Gate, Electronic City, Bangalore ...**PETITIONERS**

And: The Tahasildhar, Registrar of Births & Deaths, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore ...**RESPONDENT**

NOTICE

Whereas, the petitioners have filed the above petition U/s. 13(3) of the birth and death acts seeking direction to the Commissioner of BBMP, Bengaluru to register the death of the deceased is the grandmother of petitioner No.1, 3 to 6 and mother in law of petitioner No.2 by name **Smt. ERAMMA** W/o Late. MOTAPPA who died on 27-08-1987 at Kodathi Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore.

If any person interested in the matter may appear before Hon'ble XXIII ACJM at Bangalore, either personally or through an advocate duly instructed on **16/02/2026** at **11.00 AM.**, to which date the case is posted for hearing.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this 14/01/2026.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristear, XXIII Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, Bengaluru City

Advocate for Petitioners:
Raghavendra Rao J.V
No.33, opposite 10th Cross, Cubbonpet
Main Road, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru-560 002.

FORM NO. INC 26

(Pursuant to Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014)

Advertisement for change of Registered Office of the Company from the State of Karnataka to the State of Maharashtra

BEFORE THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

SOUTH EAST REGION

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(5) (a) of the Companies (Incorporation)

Rules, 2014

AND

IN THE MATTER OF

INSTACOREASSET PRIVATE LIMITED ("IPL").

CIN: U68100KA2023PTC179271 a Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 having its Registered Office at #246, Flat No 206, Shiva Paradise Subramanyapura Uttarahalli Subramanyapura, Bengaluru Bengaluru South, - 560 061. Karnataka, India.

... Petitioner Company

NOTICE is hereby given to the General Public that the Company proposes to make Petition to the Central Government under Section 13(4) of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of the alteration of Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the Special Resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 09th January, 2026 to change its registered office from the State of Karnataka to the State of Maharashtra, within the jurisdiction of the Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra at Mumbai.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the Petitioner Company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by Registered Post his/her objection supported by an Affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, South East Region having address at 3rd Floor, Corporate Bhavan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad -500 068, Telangana within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication of this Notice with a copy to the Petitioner Company at its registered office mentioned above.

Date : 19-01-2026
Place : Bengaluru

For INSTACOREASSET PRIVATE LIMITED

Birur Srinivasamurthy Malathi
Director
DIN: 10988979

Lakshmi Narayana Anusha
Director
DIN: 10996897

FORM NO. INC 26

(Pursuant to Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014)

Advertisement for change of Registered Office of the Company from the State of Karnataka to the State of Maharashtra

BEFORE THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

SOUTH EAST REGION

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(5) (a) of the Companies (Incorporation)

Rules, 2014

AND

PROPAVENUE ESTATE PRIVATE LIMITED ("PEPL").

CIN: U68100KA2024PTC186993 a Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 having its Registered Office at ground floor, 4/02, 14th Cross, Southend, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Madhavan Park, Bengaluru, Bengaluru South - 560 011,Karnataka India.

... Petitioner Company

NOTICE is hereby given to the General Public that the Company proposes to make Petition to the Central Government under Section 13(4) of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of the alteration of Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the Special Resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 09th January, 2026 to change its registered office from the State of Karnataka to the State of Maharashtra, within the jurisdiction of the Registrar of Companies, Maharashtra at Mumbai.

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the Petitioner Company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by Registered Post his/her objection supported by an Affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, South East Region having address at 3rd Floor, Corporate Bhavan, Bandlaguda, Nagole, Tattiannaram Village, Hayat Nagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Hyderabad-500068, Telangana within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication of this Notice with a copy to the Petitioner Company at its registered office mentioned above.

Date : 19-01-2026
Place : Bengaluru

For PROPAVENUE ESTATE PRIVATE LIMITED

Birur Srinivasamurthy Malathi
Director
DIN: 10988979

Lakshmi Narayana Anusha
Director
DIN: 10996897

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Mr.Wasim Malik Ingalgi S/o Mr.M F Ingalgi** is intending to purchase the schedule property from **M/S Bank of Maharashtra Asset Recovery Branch, Bangalore zone through Auction purchase** ; person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential **Flat bearing No.411,** in Fourth Floor, containing of **3 Bed rooms,** super built up area, measuring 1354 Sq. Feet of the Apartment known as **"DS-MAX SANSKRUTHI",** together with an undivided share, right, title and interest measuring **319 Sq.ft,** along with one car parking bearing No.411 and the said apartment is constructed on immovable property bearing BBMP katha No.207 (item No.1+2+3+4=35629 Sq.ft as stated in Absolute Sale deed No.6362/2016-17 registered at the Office of the Sub-registrar, Banaswadi, Bangalore), situated at **K.Narayanapura village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East.**

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., LL.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845848425, 9113784843
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

IIIT Bhubaneswar
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No.: IIIT-Bh/Reg. Faculty 2026/007 **Date : 06.01.2026**

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- **Basic Science & Humanities (Mathematics)**

For further details and online submission, please visit : **https://www.iiit-bh.ac.in/** **Sd/- REGISTRAR**

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इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

INDIRANAGAR BRANCH
395, CMH Road, Indiranagar, Bangaluru-560038

APPENDIX- IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8 (6)

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/ Constructive(Symbolic) (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Indian Bank, Indira Nagar Branch,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is",** and **"Whatever there is" on 26.02.2026** for recovery of **Rs.11,25,327.00 (Rupees Eleven Lakh Twenty-Five Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Seven Only)** due to the Indian Bank, Indira Nagar Branch, Secured Creditor, from **1) Mr R Shivakumar S/o Ramanathan (Borrower cum Mortgagor)** No.132, B-5, BDA Flats Kallahalli, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560042 and **2) Mrs R Malavathi W/o R Shivakumar (Co-Borrower cum Mortgagor)** No.132, B-5, BDA Flats Kallahalli, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560042 The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

SCHEDULE

The specific details of the assets which are intended to be brought to sale are enumerated hereunder:

Details/ Description of Mortgaged Assets	Reserve Price	EMD	Date, Time for e-auction and Property ID No.	Prior Encumbrance
All that piece and parcel of BDA Apartment No. B-5, situated in Ground Floor (B Type) having 381 Squre Feet Built up area and 1/32x577.50 square meters (18.04 square meters or 194.18 Square Feet) of undivided share, right, title and interest constructed on property bearing No 132, situated at Kallahalli 1st stage, 2nd phase layout, Bangalore and **Bounded on the:** East by: Road, West by: Flat No.131, North by: Flat No.133, South by: Flat No129.	**Rs. 19,05,000.00**	**Rs. 1,90,500.00**	**Dt 26.02.2026 from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Property ID: IDIB7185949706**	NIL

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(https://www.baanknet.com)** of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call **8291220220.** For Registration status and for EMD status please email to **support.baanknet.com@psballiance.com.** For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: **https://www.baanknet.com** and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd, Contact No. **8291220220.**

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://www.baanknet.com**

Date: 17.01.2026, Place: Bangalore **Authorized Officer, Indian Bank**

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

INDIRANAGAR BRANCH
395, CMH Road, Indiranagar, Bangaluru-560038

APPENDIX- IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8 (6)

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Constructive(Symbolic) (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Indian Bank, Indira Nagar Branch,** Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is",** and **"Whatever there is"** on **26.02.2026** for recovery of **Rs.30,21,870.00 (Rupees Thirty Lakh Twenty-One Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Only)** due to the **Indian Bank, Indira Nagar Branch,** Secured Creditor, from **Mrs. S S Selvi W/o G Chandrasekhar (Borrower & Mortgagor),** Site No.30, Khata No.195/1 B Narayanapura, KR Puram, Hobli, Bangalore East taluk Bangalore 560043, **Mr. G Chandrasekhar S/o Govindaswamy (Borrower),** Site No.30, Khata No.195/1 B Narayanapura, KR Puram, Hobli, Bangalore East taluk, Bangalore 560043, **Mr. Prabhu C S/o G Chandrasekhar (Borrower),** Site No.30, Khata No.195/1 B Narayanapura, K R Puram, Hobli, Bangalore East taluk Bangalore 560043, **Mr. Karthick C (Guarantor) S/o Chandrasekhar,** Site No.30, Khata No.195/1 B Narayanapura, K R Puram Hobli, Bangalore East taluk Bangalore 560043 The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

SCHEDULE

The specific details of the assets which are intended to be brought to sale are enumerated hereunder:

Details/ Description of Mortgaged Assets	Reserve Price	EMD	Date, Time for e-auction and Property ID No.	Prior Encumbrance
All the piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.30, Khata No.195/1 situated at B. Narayanapura, KR Puram Hobli, erstwhile Bangalore South Taluk, now it is Bangalore east taluk, coming under the jurisdiction of Krishnarajapura City Municipal council, Bangalore measuring east to west 46 feet and north to south 19 feet 6 inches, in all measuring 897 Sq Ft and property **Bounded:** East By: Road, West by: Property belongs to Chinnappa, North By: Site No.29, South by: Site No.31	**Rs. 97,10,000.00**	**Rs. 9,71,000.00**	**Dt 26.02.2026 from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm Property ID: IDIB50486471236**	NIL

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(https://www.baanknet.com)** of our e auction service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call **8291220220.** For Registration status and for EMD status please email to **support.baanknet.com@psballiance.com.** For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: https://www.baanknet.com and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact **PSB Alliance Pvt.Ltd, Contact No. 8291220220.**

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://www.baanknet.com**

Date: 17.01.2026, Place: Bangalore **Authorized Officer, Indian Bank**

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Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday lashed out at the BJP, stating that when the saffron party was in power, it did not hand over a single case to the CBI for investigation. "They have no moral authority to question us," he said. He was reacting to the BJP's demand for a CBI probe into the Ballari firing incident

DKS skipping Davos trip a missed opportunity for state, says BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar's last-minute decision to skip the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos has started a debate over priorities of the government, with the Opposition BJP labelling it a "missed opportunity" for the state. Shivakumar, who was slated to represent Karnataka at the global summit, cancelled his trip, citing "pressing official engagements" in Delhi and Bengaluru. According to official statements, these include meetings with All-India Congress Committee leaders on the upcoming Assam elections and leading a state campaign against the central government over MGNREGA funds.

The developments have come amid persistent speculation over a power struggle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar. Supporters of the DCM hinted at a potential leadership change sometime in the near future, though both leaders have publicly downplayed any discord. Dismissing the rumours, Siddaramaiah recently told the media, "There is no power struggle. Where is the fight? You are the ones 'creating' the fight."

BJP leaders, including state chief BY Vijayendra, seized on Shivakumar's cancelled Davos trip to criticise Congress' priorities. "This exposes apathy towards governance," he said, adding that the party places internal politics above state development.

He referred to a recent protocol lapse during German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's visit to Bengaluru, where neither Siddaramaiah nor Shivakumar welcomed the leader, opting instead to receive Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in Mysuru. Instead, Industries Minister MB Patil received Scholz, which BJP called a "betrayal of Karnataka's interests". Defending the government, Patil clarified that the chancellor's visit was private with no official engagements that did not require formal protocol.

YADUVEER ATTACKS CM, DCM

BJP leader and Mysuru MP Yaduveer Wadiyar attacked both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, slamming their priorities. "Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar put party politics above the state's interest by skipping the reception of the German Chancellor. Now, amidst a power struggle in Karnataka, Shivakumar has cancelled his World Economic Forum visit. This is what governance looks like under the Congress – global opportunities are being sacrificed at the altar of internal power games. While leaders fight for positions, Karnataka loses credibility and momentum. This is not leadership. It is betrayal of the people," he posted on X.

At WEF, state to focus on real-time investment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A state government delegation led by Minister for Large and Medium Industries MB Patil has departed to attend the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2026 to be held at Davos-Klosters from January 19 to 23.

Patil said the state's engagement at the WEF will have a strong emphasis on converting investment intent into on-ground implementation. "During the four-day programme, the delegation will take part in over 45 high-level engagements, including bilateral meetings, roundtables and ecosystem interactions, aimed at accelerating investor decision-making and project grounding in Karnataka," he said.

The minister also said that the delegation is scheduled to meet several global majors, including Amazon Web Services, Lenovo, Vast Space, Coca-Cola, Philip Morris, Imperial College London and the Singapore Economic Development Board, apart from multiple other international investors across manufacturing, renewable energy, electronics and ESDM, data centres and Global Capability Centres (GCCs). He said discussions at Davos will focus on presenting Karnataka's strong value proposition and its preparedness to translate investment intent into reality.

Industries Minister MB Patil with his delegation before leaving for Davos | X

Adding to this, Patil said key areas of engagement will include land readiness, statutory approvals, availability of utilities, sector-specific infrastructure, supply chain linkages, skilled talent, incentive frameworks and time-bound facilitation through the State's investor support mechanisms.

At Davos, the delegation will also host a focused session titled Karnataka's Emerging Industry Advantage. The delegation includes Tushar Girinath, ACS, urban development department; S Selvakumar, principal secretary, industries department; Manivannan, commissioner, BDA and Gunjan Krishna, commissioner of industries department.

DEMANDING RESPECT

Congress workers protest in front of the residence of MLA G Janardhan Reddy in Bengaluru on Sunday against his use of "disrespectful language" against Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

EXPRESS READ

K'taka ranks second in crop insurance scheme

Bengaluru: Karnataka has secured the second rank in the Large States category in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for Kharif 2024 and Rabi 2024–25. According to the chief minister's office, out of 27.04 lakh registered farmers, 11.85 lakh farmers have filed claims amounting to Rs 2,094 crore. Among the large states, Karnataka has emerged as a front-runner in the overall progress of the scheme's implementation. The commissioner of agriculture and the director of agriculture received the award during the 13th National Conference in Bengaluru on Sunday. ENS

DKS meets top brass, won't give names

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A flurry of activities involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar over the last couple of days over leadership change indicates an intense power game.

Ahead of a seven-day special legislature session commencing on January 22, to be followed by the Budget session in March, both camps are keenly waiting for the high command's decision.

Shivakumar, who cancelled his visit to Davos to take part in the World Economic Forum on January 18, is camping in the national capital.

The deputy CM admitted that he is there to do politics, but refused to divulge which high command leaders he met on Sunday.

"We are politicians, and it's our job to engage in politics. We have requested meetings with various people (high command leaders) as required and will continue to do so. Why are you (the media) making it such a big deal? I am here for the government work, party's work and political work," he told reporters in Delhi.

Asked if it meant he met high command leaders, he said, "I can't disclose that... Time will provide all the answers."

For the upcoming Assembly polls in five states, Shivakumar has been appointed an observer for Assam and Energy Minister KJ George for Kerala. This has given the duo an opportunity to interact with high command leaders, and the discussions also included the leadership change in Karnataka, sources said.

George, considered a member of the Siddaramaiah camp, met Rahul Gandhi, but could not meet Sonia Gandhi as she is recuperating after a health issue. He also met former defence minister AK Antony on Sunday.

"Had the privilege of meeting AK Antony, former defence minister, CWC Member and a respected veteran Congress leader. Paid a courtesy visit to seek his guidance – truly grateful for his valuable insights," he posted on X.

PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi said the confusion about power sharing is affecting the administration and insisted that the high command should make its stance clear soon.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Only through KPP portal)

BWSSB invites Expression of Interest from Self Help Groups (SHGs) for the following works.

Name of the Work	Address for Communication & EOI
Implementation of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT - 2.0) in Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board.	Office of the Executive Engineer, Water Supply & Sanitary Division,(South West-2),1st Floor, Shimsha Bhavan, Sangam Circle, Bengaluru-560038. Email: eeswe2@bwssb.gov.in

Last date for receiving of queries in portal **27.01.2026 at 4:00 hrs.**, Pre-Eol Meeting: **29.01.2026 at 11 am.**, The Last date for submission of response to Eol: **03.02.2026 at 4:00 hrs**. Date & time of opening of Eol : **05.02.2026 at 4:00 hrs.** Eol validity period: **365** days from the Eol due date ie., **05.02.2027.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer (South)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above mentioned offices during working hours. DIPR/CP/5097/SSC/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/Tr(Op)/Circle-South/AEE(C)/2025-26/4883-85 Date: 16.01.2026

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

KPTCL invites tenders for the various Capital, R&M Civil works, Transmission Lines Tower protection work in Hoody and Somanahalli Operation divisions through KPP Portal only.

The bids will be received through KPP mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL' or to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 19.01.2026.**

Sd/-Superintending Engineer(Ele.), Tr(Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL, Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -2 BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House Building ,Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore -560 001

O.A. No.1070/2024

Between:Bank Of India, J. P. Nagar Branch, No.2 Vasudhaa, 38th Main, J. P. Nagar 6th Phase, Bengaluru - 560 078. ...Applicant

And

M/s. JLG Enterprises & Others ....Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT Nos. 1 & 2 UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993, BY PAPER PUBLICATION

To : 1. M/s.JLG Enterprises Represented by its Proprietor Mrs. Lakshmi K., Ground Floor, Site No. 3 4th Division, Budigere Road, S. Narasimhaiah Town, Devanahalli, Bangalore - 562 110.

2. Mrs. Lakshmi K. W/o. Mr. Lokesh A., Aged about 36 years, R/a. No. 16, Samrudhi Nilaya, 11th Cross, Krishna Nagar,Hulimavu,Bangalore - 560 076.

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the above defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.68,52,829.00** (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Nine only) amount together with current and future interest, cost and other relief's.

Take notice that you are hereby required to show cause within 30 days of service of summons through Paper Publication on **20.03.2026 at 10.30 A. M.** in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief's prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **12.11.2025.**

By the Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2 , Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client's have agreed to purchase Residential cum Commercial Immovable Property bearing **BBMP Municipal New No.14, EPID No. 2140959053,** (previous municipal No's.14 & 15, earlier No.13/15), situated at **19th Cross Road, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru-560 002,** having **PID No.28-36-14,** Coming under BBMP Chickpet Ward No.109, (old Ward No.28), as described below in the schedule from, **Sri. S. Prakash, Yogachandra and Shankar .S, all are S/o. Late. H. S. Shivanna,** Any person/s who has got any valid claim, title, demand or interest over the said property or any objections to the purchase of the said property by my clients, may file his/her objections in writing, along with attested copies of the supporting documents, with the undersigned within **(7) Seven Days** from this day. Failing which it will be deemed that no other person/s has got any claim, demand, share, interest or title in the said property, by way of previous sale or agreement to sell or otherwise or objections to the purchase of the said property by my clients and my clients will complete the sale, as if, there is no such claim/s.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Residential cum Commercial Immovable Property bearing **BBMP Municipal New No.14, EPID No.2140959053,** (previous municipal No's.14 & 15, earlier No.13/15), situated at **19th Cross Road, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru-560 002,** having **PID No.28-36-14,** Coming under BBMP Chickpet Ward No.109, (old Ward No.28), Consists of Land East to West on the Northern side **46 feet** and on Southern side **40 feet** and North to South on Eastern side 7 **feet** and on Western side **33 feet,** in totaling **659 Square feet (79.803 square meters)** out of which **429** is used for **residential** purposes and **430** square feet is used for **commercial** purposes, having RCC building thereon consists of Ground Floor measuring 850 Square Feet and First Floor measuring 300 Square Feet, in all measuring **1150 square feet,** with RCC roofing and Mosaic flooring with Jungle wood doors and windows, with civic amenities like water, sewerage and electricity, bounded on :- East by : **19th Cross Road,** West by : Private Property, North by : **Road** and South by : Property of Sri. Gangaiah.

DHIRAJ KUMAR JAIN, ADVOCATE
D-5 & 6, 4th Floor, Sakalajee Market, Avenue Road, Bengaluru-560 002.
Mobile No. 9916971407
Mobile No. 9008794385
Place: Bengaluru Date : 19-01-2026

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -2 BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House Building Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore -560 001

O.A. No.528/2021

Between:Bank Of India, V.V. Puram Branch, No. 83 Diagonal Road, Visveshwarapuram, Bengaluru - 560 004 ...Applicant

And

M/s. Adithya Security Solutions and Another ....Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993, BY PAPER PUBLICATION

To : 1. M/s. Adithya Security Solutions, Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Lokanadha Shetty No. 67, Basement 9th A Main Kempegowda Layout Laggere, Bengaluru - 560 058

2. Mr. Lokanadha Setty S/o. Venkataramaiah Shetty, No. 303 3rd Floor, 5th Cross, Sri Sai Nivas, K. R. Puram.

WHEREAS, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the above defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs.99,57,590.00** (Rupees Ninety Nine Lakhs Fifty Seven Thousand Five Hundred and Ninty only) amount together with current and future interest, cost and other relief's.

Take notice that you are hereby required to show cause within 30 days of service of summons through Paper Publication on **25.03.2026 at 10.30 A. M.** in person or by a Pleader/ Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief's prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this **14.11.2025**

By the Order of the Tribunal
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2 , Bangalore

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ – ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08262–220936, E-Mail: zpedckm@rediffmail.com

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:27/2025–26/2ನೇ ಕರೆ/2912 ದಿನಾಂಕ:17.01.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರುರವರು ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ **ಕಡೂರು** ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 59.10 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 16.88 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅಥವಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿರುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ Standard Tender Document KW-1,2 & 3 ರಂತೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಲಗತ್ತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿದ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.01.2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ:30.01.2026 ರವರೆಗೆ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವುದು. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02–02–2026ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07–02–2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಈ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಅಕಸ್ಮಿಕ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳು ಬಂದಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ದಿನವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** website ನಲ್ಲಿ ಓದಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ತಿಳಿಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/Tr(Op)Z/KLB/Civil/2025-26/12912 Date: 16.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL Invites the following Civil Engineering Works in Transmission (Op) Zone, Kalaburagi **on Total Turnkey Basis.**

(1) Construction of RCC road and other allied works at 110kV sub-station premises Chidri, **Rs.29,38,006.81** (Excl. GST). **(2)** Providing RCC approach road at 110kV sub-station Chincholi, **Rs.28,28,540.76** (Excl. GST). **(3)** Providing peripheral compound wall and other allied works at 110kV sub-station Ghattarga, **Rs.40,71,018.65** (Excl. GST).

(4) Providing RCC road and other allied works at 220kV R/S Sedam, **Rs.46,21,847.87** (Excl. GST). **(5)** Construction of Major Works Division office building at Koppal for construction of record room and AE's chamber, **Rs.33,89,771.56** (Excl. GST).

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The detailed notifications regarding subject enquiry in the E-Procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper Link 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** from **19.01.2026.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec.), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi-585 105.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION CUM SALE

Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IIFL Home Finance Limited (IIFL HFL) **Corporate Office at Plot No.98, Udyog Vihar, Phase–IV, Gurgaon-122015. (Haryana) and Branch Office at:- Soma Merit, No.9, Ground Floor,venkataswamy Naidu Street,taskar Town, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-560001** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer ("AO") of IIFL-HFL had taken the possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of IIFL-HFL's dues, The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.iiflonehome.com

Borrower(s) /Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Physical Possession	Reserve Price
Mr.Tolsikombri Devaraju Kemparaju, Mrs. Sharmila, Mrs. Shivamma **(Prospect No IL10386051)**	**09/04/2025 Rs.1679447.00** (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Seven Only)	All That Part And Parcel Of The Property Baaring: Site No. 43, Sy.no. 1, Khatha No. 512, Pillanaganahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka , 560076 Property Type: Land_area, Built_up_area Property Area: 756.00, 490.00	**11/11/2025** **Total Outstanding As On Date 08/12/2025 Rs. 1896569.36/-** (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Nine and Thirty Six Paise Only)	**Rs.2033000.0/-** (Rupees Twenty Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Only) **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.203300.00/-** (Rupees Two Lakh Three Thousand Three Hundred Only)
	Bid Increase Amount Rs.25000.00/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only)			

Date of Inspection of property	EMD Last Date	Date/ Time of E-Auction
02/02/2026,1100 hrs -1400 hrs	04/02/2026, till 5pm.	06/02/2026,1100 hrs.-1300 hrs.

Mode Of Payment :- EMD payments are to be made vide online mode only. To make payments you have to visit https://www.iiflonehome.com and pay through link available for the property/ Secured Asset only.
Note: Payment link for each property/ Secured Asset is different. Ensure you are using link of the property/ Secured Asset you intend to buy vide public auction.
For Balance Payment - Login https://www.iiflonehome.com >Select "My Bid" > Click on Pay Balance Amount

Terms and Conditions:-

1. For participating in e-auction, intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider https://www.iiflonehome.com well in advance and must create the login account, login ID and password. Intending bidders have to submit the payment of the EMD prior to participation. Upon payment, bidders are required to submit the electronically signed E-Tender Form/Bid Form (E-Sign) using their Aadhaar Number.
2. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount". In case a bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
3. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
4. The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, costs associated with the conveyance or transfer of the land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.
5. The purchaser has to pay TDS applicable to the transaction/payment of sale amount and submit the TDS certificate with IIFL HFL.
6. Bidders are advised to go through the website https://www.iiflonehome.com for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale & auction application form before submitting their Bids for taking part in the eauction sale proceedings.
7. For details, help procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the service provider E mail ID:- care@iiflonehome.com, Support Helpline Numbers:@1800 2672 499.
8. For any query related to Property details, Inspection of Property and Online bid etc. call IIFL HFL toll free no. 1800 2672 499 from 09:30 hrs. to 18:00 hrs. between Monday to Friday or write to email:- care@iiflonehome.com
9. Notice is hereby given to above said borrowers to collect the household articles, which were lying in the secured asset at the time of taking physical possession within 7 days, otherwise IIFL-HFL shall not be responsible for any loss of property under the circumstances.
10. Further the notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, that in case they fail to collect the above said articles same shall be sold in accordance with Law.
11. In case of default in payment at any stage by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled, and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put for sale.
12. AO reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of tender/auction without assigning any reason thereof. In case of any dispute in tender/Auction, the decision of AO of IIFL-HFL will be final.

STATUTARY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up-to-date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Place : Bangalore, Date : 19.01.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.**

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
LABORATORY FOR ELECTRO-OPTICS SYSTEMS (LEOS)
PEENYA, BANGALORE-560058
LEOS CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE DIVISION (LCMD)
[Phone: (080)-22685088, 5047, 5045, 5088, 5086, (080)-28392310]

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (NIET)

On behalf of the President of India, item rate e- tender are invited for the following works:

Name of the work : NIT NO & Date: Proposed Modifications to Director's office at 1st floor of Admin Block, LEOS, Peenya, Bengaluru -58 (Civil & PH works). NIET No: LEOS/CMG/CW-01/2025-26; Dtd: 15.01.2026; **Estimated cost put to tender in Rs. 71.47 Lakhs; EMD Rs : 1,42,940/-; Period of Completion in months :** 06 months; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 20.01.2026; **Closing Date :** 05.02.2026

Name of the work : NIT NO & Date: Proposed CISF Watch Tower at LEOS Campus, Peenya, Bengaluru -58 (Civil & PH works); NIET No: LEOS/CMG/CW-02/2025-26; Dtd: 15.01.2026; **Estimated cost put to tender in Rs. 37.45 Lakhs; EMD Rs : 74,900/-; Period of Completion in months :** 06 months; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 20.01.2026; **Closing Date :** 05.02.2026

Name of the work : NIT NO & Date: Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Smoke detection and Fire alarm system for Admin Block, Optics Block and Lab Block at LEOS-ISRO, Peenya, Bangalore -560058.; NIET No: LEOS/CMG/EMW-04/2025-26; Dtd: 09.01.2026; **Estimated cost put to tender in Rs. 50.58 Lakhs; EMD Rs : 1,01,160/-; Period of Completion in months :** 08 months; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 19.01.2026; **Closing Date :** 05.02.2026

Name of the work : NIT NO & Date: Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of solar street light systems in Aryabhata Campus & Providing Off grid type solar Photovoltaic system(SPV) for existing street lights including civil works for battery room at LEOS Campus Peenya, Bangalore-58.; NIET No: LEOS/CMG/EMW-05/2025-26; Dtd: 09.01.2026; **Estimated cost put to tender in Rs. 55.54 Lakhs; EMD Rs : 1,11,080/-; Period of Completion in months :** 08 months; Tender document can be downloaded from : **Opening Date :** 22.01.2026; **Closing Date :** 10.02.2026

Interested tenderers may please refer detailed Notice Inviting e-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

-Sd-
GROUP DIRECTOR
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (C&MG)
URSC, BANGALORE.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
(ಮೂಲಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ, ಬಂದರು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳನಾಡು ಜಲಸಾರಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಜಲಸಾರಿಗೆ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬಂದರು ಮತ್ತು ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕ್ಯಾಮಿಲಿ ಹಾಲ್, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಅಂಬಲಪಾಡಿ ಉಡುಪಿ– 576103
Tel No: 0820-2532961 Email: pfdudupi@gmail.com

ಸಂ:ಕಾನಿಇ:ಬಂಮೀವಿ:ಉಡುಪಿ:ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ:23/2025–26 ದಿ:16.01.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ **"Construction of multipurpose Fisheries centre for local Fishermen at Kodavooru in Malpe, Udupi Taluk & District. (ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ 105.94 ಲಕ್ಷ), Construction of multipurpose Fisheries centre for local Fishermen at Uppunda Madikal, Byndoor Taluk & District (ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ 109.73 ಲಕ್ಷ) ಹಾಗೂ Seawall Construction and Renovation of existing fish market at Koteshwara, Kundapura Taluk, Udupi District (ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ 111.45 ಲಕ್ಷ)"** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆದು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆಯ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಕ್ಕೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: 29–01–2026 ರಂದು 17.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪಡೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ ದಿ: 31–01–2026 ರಂದು 17.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮುಂದೂಡಿಕೆಯ ಕುರಿತು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ತಮ್ಮ ವಿಶ್ವಾಸಿ,
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಬಂದರು ಮತ್ತು ಮೀನುಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಉಡುಪಿ

CPI(M) MLA S Rajendran on Sunday joined the BJP after accepting party membership from Kerala state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar here. Rajendran, a veteran leader from Idukki district, represented the Devikulam Assembly constituency from 2006 to 2021

NSS, SNDP supremos lash out at Satheesan, put UDF on backfoot

NSS questions Satheesan's secular credentials, citing his visit to Syro-Malabar Church synod

ABHILASH CHANDRAN @Kottayam

IN a setback for the UDF, especially Congress, ahead of the assembly elections, heads of two influential Hindu community organisations – the Nair Service Society (NSS) and Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Yogam – lashed out at Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan on the same day.

The statements by NSS general secretary G Sukumaran Nair and SNDP Yogam general secretary Vellappally Natesan on Sunday are being perceived as a major blow to the UDF, which, buoyed by the success in December's local body polls, is gearing up for the assembly election under Satheesan's leadership.

The leaders also alluded to the necessity of Nair-Ezhava unity in Kerala, a move interpreted as an indirect response to a possible minority consolidation in the assembly poll.

Speaking to mediapersons in Perunna, Nair alleged the Congress had let Satheesan 'loose'. "Does Congress have a president? Why does Satheesan respond to every issue? He is commenting on everything by making the president look like a pawn," he said. Nair also questioned Satheesan's secular credentials, citing his visit to a Syro-Malabar Church synod.

Kerala Finance Minister KN Balagopal and LoP VD Satheesan at the concluding session of the three-day India International Industrial Expo at Angamaly | A SANESH

Meanwhile, Vellappally continued his tirade against Satheesan, who he said had repeatedly labelled him a communalist.

"There are several other senior leaders in Congress like A K Antony, Ramesh Chennithala and K C Venugopal. I will concede if they say I am a communalist. Satheesan is calling me a communalist while aligning with Jamaat-e-Islami and Muslim League," he told reporters at his residence in Kanichukulangara, Alappuzha.

On Satheesan's comments over him travelling in the chief minister's car, Vellappally said. "My father gifted my sister an imported car even before Satheesan was born," he said.

'Only opposed communaslism'

Following the criticisms raised by SNDP general secretary Vellapally Nateshan and NSS secretary Sukumaran Nair, VD Satheeshan stated on Sunday that his stance is against communal divisions and rifts. "There should not be divisions between communities and religions. Kerala should be known for unity. I am not against community leaders. If these communities have any issues, we should be the first to be there and help them. How are meeting community leaders and speaking against communalism connected?" he said. ENS

AMID SAHITYA AKADEMI CONTROVERSY

Stalin launches literary award for seven non-Hindi languages

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

CHIEF Minister MK Stalin on Sunday announced that the Tamil Nadu government will institute national-level literary awards for outstanding works in seven Indian languages including Tamil, Bengali and Marathi.

Responding to the cancellation of the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025 following the intervention of the Union Ministry of Culture in December, the CM made the announcement at the valedictory ceremony of the Chennai International Book Fair (CIBF), in the presence of writers, publishers and literary delegates from across India and several foreign countries.

Announcing the initiative, the CM said the state government would confer annual national-level honours titled the 'Semmozhi Literary Award' for outstanding literary works published in select Indian languages. In the first phase, works in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Bengali and Marathi will be recognised, with each award carrying a cash prize of ₹5 lakh. To ensure transparency and uphold literary standards, separate selection committees comprising eminent writers and award-winning authors will be constituted for each language, he added. Underlining that it remains uncertain whether the Sahitya Akademi Awards announcement would take place at all, Stalin termed the political interference in arts and literary awards as "dangerous".

Writers and representatives of literary organisations had urged the state government to respond constructively (to the cancellation) and the government also felt such a response was the need of the hour, he said.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin and International Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq at the valedictory of Chennai International Book Fair | P JAWAHAR

Vijay to appear before CBI again over stampede case, leaves for Delhi

Chennai: TVK chief **Vijay** left for Delhi on Sunday to appear before the CBI on January 19 in connection with the Karur stampede case. The actor-turned politician left by a chartered plane for the national capital by 4.15 pm, airport officials said. Vijay, who was questioned at the CBI headquarters here on January 12 for more than six hours, was asked to come again on the following day, but the actor sought another date, citing the harvest festival Pongal. PTI

GUV: MISMATCH BETWEEN TN'S POTENTIAL & ITS ACTUAL GROWTH

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

QUESTIONING whether Tamil Nadu is performing anywhere near its true potential, Governor **RN Ravi** on Sunday said the state is "running far below its capacity" despite having some of the strongest fundamentals in education, human resources and innovation in the country.

Speaking at the 'PanIIT Tech-4Bharat' summit in Chennai, the governor pointed to a widening gap between TN's capabilities and its actual economic and industrial outcomes. Ravi noted that Tamil Nadu has already achieved a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of nearly 50% in higher education, among the highest in India. The state also leads the country in the number of patents filed and granted, produces the highest number of research papers, engineers and PhD holders. However the same is not reflected in its industrial and economic growth.

While TN was historically the second-largest recipient of private investment after Maharashtra for several decades, its share of new private investments has now fallen to below 5%, indicating waning investor enthusiasm. "Investors should be making a beeline to TN. However, in 2025 out of the total MoUs signed in India, only 5% of it has made to TN," he said.

While nearly 70% of school students opt for science streams, the ratio is reversed in higher education, with only 30% pursuing STEM disciplines, he said. Industry leaders, he added, frequently cite the lack of employable engineers as a major constraint, despite the presence of nearly 500 engineering colleges in the state.

Adding to the challenge, nearly 45% of faculty positions in universities and engineering colleges remain vacant, affecting teaching quality. On the Anna University's ghost faculty scam, the governor said that those who took initiative to rectify the issue are being hounded now, in a reference to the suspension of former vice-chancellor and registrar of the university.

Organised by PanIIT Alumni India in association with IIT Madras, the summit marked the 75th anniversary of the Indian Institutes of Technology and sought to align innovation, research and policy with the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

THREADS OF ANCESTRY

People perform special rituals to honour their ancestors on the occasion of Thai Amavasya at Kapaleeswarar Temple in Mylapore in Chennai on Sunday | P JAWAHAR

Cervical cancer hits rural K'taka women hardest

GAYATHRI M KURUP @Bengaluru

DESPITE a gradual decline in cervical cancer cases across India, doctors in Karnataka warn that the disease continues to disproportionately affect women in rural areas, where late diagnosis and limited access to preventive care remain major challenges.

On cervical cancer awareness month, Consultant Radiation Oncologist at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, Dr S D Shamsundar said, "We see a large number of cervical cancer patients coming from rural areas, often at advanced stages. Breast cancer may be more common in urban areas, but cervical cancer continues to affect many women from rural Karnataka."

Doctors attributed the higher burden in rural areas to early marriage, multiple childbirths, home deliveries, poor menstrual hygiene and lack of awareness. "Cervical cancer is caused by persistent infection with the HPV virus," Dr Shamsundar explained. "Factors like inadequate hygiene during childbirth, non-institutional deliveries and early age at first childbirth increase the risk, all of which are more prevalent in rural settings."

Even in urban areas, reluctance to undergo screening remains a concern. "Women are generally hesitant to get themselves examined, especially when it comes to cervical screening," Consultant Surgical Oncologist at Rangadore Memorial Hospital, Dr Kavitha Jain said.

"Symptoms like abnormal bleeding or foul-smelling discharge are often dismissed as routine, leading to delayed diagnosis. Many patients come to us only when the disease is already advanced." She also stressed that HPV vaccination should not be limited to girls alone. "Boys and men must also be vaccinated, as they can carry and transmit the virus. Vaccinating both genders is key to breaking the chain of infection," added Dr Jain.

Doctors stressed that cervical cancer is one of the most preventable cancers, yet screening uptake remains low.

Gynaecologist at Aster CMI Hospital, Dr Maithili, said, "Screening is meant for women without symptoms. Pap smears and HPV testing can detect pre-cancerous changes almost a decade before cancer develops. Unfortunately, most women only seek care when symptoms appear."

Awareness and uptake of the HPV vaccine have improved in urban Karnataka, particularly among parents vaccinating their children, doctors said, but coverage remains limited overall. "The vaccine is not part of the government's mandatory immunisation programme, and cost remains a barrier, especially for rural and low-income families," Dr Shamsundar noted.

Experts stressed that cervical cancer is largely preventable through early detection and vaccination, yet gaps in awareness, screening, and access continue to put women at risk. Doctors urge women, especially those in rural areas, to undergo regular Pap smear tests from age 25 and consider HPV vaccination.

Ashoka alleges ₹2,500-crore scam in excise licence auction

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

OPPOSITION Leader R Ashoka on Sunday alleged a massive Rs 2,500-crore bribery scandal in the Excise department, involving licence auctions, is helping the Congress channel funds for upcoming elections. He demanded the resignation of Excise Minister RB Thimmapur.

Ashoka claimed that bribes are fixed for various licences.

R Ashoka & Chalavadi Narayanaswamy address the media | EXPRESS

He alleged that money is being used for Congress campaigns in Assam and Maharashtra, citing an audio clip mentioning payments to the minister or his son. "This government has destroyed Gandhi's ideals," he said, criticising the Congress for prioritising politics over governance.

The BJP leader referenced a recent Lokayukta arrest of Excise Deputy Commissioner Jagadish Nayak for accepting Rs 25 lakh in bribes. He praised the BJP for exposing other irregularities, including what he claimed was a Rs 5,000-crore scam in the Gruhalakshmi scheme, Valmiki Corporation funds, and land deals worth Rs 600 crore. Ashoka slammed the government over drug mafia activities, claiming 180 individuals are involved. He accused police of functioning as Congress offices, where postings require payments. Ashoka pointed to unaddressed cases, including the non-arrest of Congress leader Rajiv Gowda from Sidlaghatta, despite demands for action.

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara had previously claimed action against the mafia, but Ashoka cited a recent meeting where he questioned police inaction.

EXPRESS READ

Worker killed in illegal firecracker unit blast

Cuttack: A 44-year-old differently-abled worker was killed in an explosion at an illegal firecracker manufacturing unit at Khalarada village within Cuttack Sadar police limits on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Suresh Bhoi alias Kuntha of Badasahi village. The unlicensed firecracker manufacturing unit belongs to one Baikuntha Samal, who is currently on the run. ENS

Naini coal tenders called off on 'benefit of doubt'

Hyderabad: Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has said that the tenders invited by the Singareni Collieries Company Limited for the auction of Naini coal blocks in Angul district of Odisha have been cancelled. He has instructed the officials to invite fresh tenders, as a 'benefit of doubt' arose following reports in a section of press. He said that the tenders were finalised by the SCCL. ENS

'Safety measures will be reviewed and further permission given'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

PARAMESHWARA said that as matches are likely to begin in March, the short-term measures must be implemented immediately. "Permission has been given conditionally. We will observe whether they are implemented once again, and based on that, further permission will be granted," he said.

He added that KSCA has given a written assurance to fulfil the short-term recommendations before the matches begin. "We have trusted them and given permission. Since this is a sporting event, the state government also has a responsibility," he said, adding that KSCA has already started implementing the measures.

Tiger attacks farmer, kills cow in S Kodagu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Madikeri

A cow and its owner who was taking it for grazing were attacked by a tiger at Nalluru village in South Kodagu. While the cow was killed in the attack, the farmer escaped with injuries. The villagers have demanded the immediate capture of the tiger.

Ponnampet Range Forest Officer Gangadhar and other officers who visited the village confirmed that the cow was killed in the tiger attack. The Rapid Response Team has started a combing operation to capture the big cat.

Based on the pugmarks and movement indications, the team installed CCTV cameras and placed a cage at a strategic location to trap the tiger.

Karnataka State Farmers' Association's district unit president Manu Somaiah and other office-bearers visited the site and urged the government to take immediate action to avoid such attacks. He said the same owner had lost another cow to a tiger attack a few days earlier and criticised forest officials for failing to capture the tiger despite installing cameras.

Gram panchayat member Robin said three cattle were killed in tiger attacks recently.

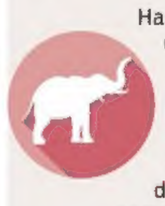
He said residents of nearby villages such as Besagur, Kirugur, Ponnappasante and Bellur, who work in coffee estates, are living in fear after frequent reports if tiger attacks on cattle.

Thithimathi Assistant Conservator of Forest Gopal said steps will be taken to capture the tiger.

Three cattle head were killed in tiger attacks recently. Residents of nearby villages such as Besagur, Kirugur, Ponnappasante and Bellur, who work in coffee estates, are living in fear

—Robin, Gram Panchayat member

Elephant which killed woman captured in Alur



Hassan: Forest officials have finally captured the elephant that trampled to death a woman named Shobha near Moogli village of Alur taluk on Saturday evening. A team including five tamed elephants from different camps captured the 20-year-old elephant after a three-and-half-hour operation near Bellavara village of Alur taluk. The team, also comprising veterinarians, forest guards and members of elephant task force, had to use drones to locate the rogue elephant as it ran amok in different coffee estates for more than half an hour after being hit by tranquiliser shots. It collapsed in a coffee estate belonging to one DB Mallikarjuna. The operation team fixed a radio collar on the elephant after giving it the revival injection. ENS

EDITORIAL

"Far more money has been lost by investors trying to anticipate corrections, than lost in the corrections themselves" — Peter Lynch

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

TIGER GLOBAL RULING DENTS INDIA'S PITCH FOR TAX CERTAINTY

THE Supreme Court's verdict in the *Tiger Global* case marks an important shift in India's tax and investment jurisprudence. By siding with the tax department and denying treaty benefits to Tiger Global's Mauritius-based entities on capital gains from the 2018 sale of unlisted Flipkart shares, the court has decisively reinforced a substance-over-form approach to cross-border investments.

The ruling makes it clear that possession of a tax residency certificate and compliance with limitation-of-benefits provisions, though necessary, do not by themselves guarantee protection under a tax treaty. Tax authorities, the court held, are entitled to examine whether an offshore structure has genuine commercial substance or is merely a conduit designed to avoid tax. This substantially widens the scope for scrutiny of fund structures that have long been used by foreign investors routing capital into India.

The judgement also narrows the effective reach of the grandfathering provisions under the India-Mauritius tax treaty. While the exemption on capital gains for shares acquired before April 1, 2017, remains on paper, the court has clarified that such protection is conditional rather than automatic. Even legacy investments can be denied treaty benefits if the underlying structure lacks economic substance. For foreign investors, this introduces fresh uncertainty over the treatment of transactions previously assumed to be insulated from dispute.

From the revenue department's standpoint, the verdict validates its long-standing view on treaty abuse. For the government, however, the implications are more complex. Tax certainty has been a central plank of India's effort to attract global capital. A ruling that permits deeper *post-facto* scrutiny risks unsettling that narrative, particularly if it encourages the reopening of past transactions. It also revives concerns over aggressive tax enforcement—concerns the government sought to allay through the 2021 settlements of the Vodafone and Cairn cases.

The decision represents a departure from the Supreme Court's earlier position in the *Azadi Bachao Andolan* case, which had accorded decisive weight to Mauritius residency certificates. Along with more recent rulings on treaty interpretation, including on the most-favoured nation clause, it signals a judicial trend towards tighter oversight of tax treaties, with potential diplomatic and commercial fallout.

India's tax authorities are entitled to curb abuse and artificial structures. The challenge now is to ensure that legitimate investors are not drawn into prolonged uncertainty. The *Tiger Global* judgement strengthens enforcement; whether it undermines confidence will depend on how carefully the government calibrates its response.

CLOSE WATCH KEY TO BHU BHARATI TRUST

LAND is an emotion, especially for farmers. It is also the most valuable with land rates in Telangana rising astronomically over the past decade. When the Congress government enacted the Telangana Bhu Bharati (Record of Rights in Land) Act, 2025, replacing the controversial Dharani portal launched by the previous government amid widespread allegations of land grabbing, it raised many hopes. Therefore, the scam that surfaced this month in Jangaon district has been a rude awakening.

The Act is ambitious and much needed, as it seeks to map and digitise land records, making them tamper-proof, in line with the central government's Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme. It is better framed than Dharani because it decentralises power, making the system more transparent and hassle-free. However, implementation is easier said than done. If Dharani triggered large-scale complaints of land grabbing by manipulating titles on the portal, Bhu Bharati now faces an unexpected problem. According to state revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, an audit covering the previous five years unearthed 4,800 cases of irregularities.

Here, land titles were not changed, at least as far as is known. Instead, the *modus operandi* to syphon government money appears ridiculously simple. Internet operators collected registration fees from farmers as prescribed by rules, but used the edit option to reduce the amount on the portal and pocketed the difference. For example, if ₹10,000 per acre was paid, the amount was edited to show ₹1,000, with the balance taken away. In one shocking instance, a challan was issued for even ₹1. The estimated loss to the exchequer is about ₹52 crore, though unofficial sources place it far higher. At least 3,000 irregular cases were detected in Rangareddy and Yadadri Bhuvanagiri districts alone, raising fears that the statewide numbers could be much larger.

The government has ordered a comprehensive audit of all transactions from 2020 and vowed to spare none. *Prima facie*, it is evident that despite decentralisation and relaxed norms, poor monitoring has enabled corruption. It is logical to suspect that this could not have occurred without collusion from government officials. Authorities claim the so-called glitch has been rectified, but that a one-time audit is not enough; continuous monitoring is essential. Farmers must verify details themselves. Instead, revenue officials are serving notices on farmers, a practice which deserves firm criticism.

QUICK TAKE

WEALTH IN WORDS

THE Economist's recent article on Jane Austen and money is thoughtful and enjoyable. It shows how wealth shaped both her life and her novels. Austen demonstrates that money alone cannot bring happiness, but it is essential for security and social standing. The article gives concrete examples, like the sums needed for a carriage, servants or a proper household, linking them to characters such as Emma, Marianne, and Miss Bates. Like Adam Smith, Austen recognised that wealth could advance society but did not guarantee virtue or happiness. The Bank of England's £10 note, replacing Darwin with Austen, wryly signals the cultural shift from evolution to economics as a defining lens on life. Indeed.

India's growth is strong in FY27. Public capex is rising and private investment is picking up. Consumer demand is recovering. Fiscal discipline remains important. Social spending must scale up

GROWTH PLAN: CAPEX, JOBS, SOCIAL SPEND

DEBOPAM CHAUDHURI
Chief Economist, Piramal Enterprises

SOURAV ROY

DOMESTIC and international observers acknowledge India's medium-term economic prospects. FY27 is shaping up to be one of the strongest years for economic activity since FY19, at least according to high-frequency data. Policy actions during FY26 have driven this momentum and laid a foundation for growth.

An illustration is public capital expenditure. After a slowdown in FY25, government capex rebounded in FY26. Year-to-date, capital expenditure is 25 percent higher than the period last year, while revenue expenditure has grown by less than 2 percent. This divergence highlights the government's preference for investment-led growth, prioritising projects with financial returns, such as urban mobility, highways, airports, shipyards, and port infrastructure. The expansion of operational metro rail networks, the pace of highway construction, capacity additions at airports, and improvements in turnaround times at major seaports are documented.

In contrast, revenue expenditure—comprising subsidies and welfare spending—has been restrained. While such spending delivers societal returns, these benefits materialise over a longer horizon. For now, the government prioritises the creation of return-generating assets to revive economic momentum, even if early gains accrue unevenly across sections of the population.

It's a bet. India's growth strategy needs a 'dual engine' approach—capex for immediate momentum, social investment for long-term inclusivity. The external environment and India's capital supply make this challenging. Elevated interest rates and interest payments could burden the exchequer, manifesting in vicious cycles that impact growth. Yet this shift may be pragmatic, but only if it is paired with an assurance. Societal and developmental expenditure must scale up once global conditions stabilise and fiscal space improves for a government operating under a perennial deficit. There is a risk of entrenching a K-shaped growth trajectory. Large sections of the population—particularly in Aspirational Districts and parts of eastern India—may remain excluded from the gains of growth.

A comparative assessment of macroeconomic indicators over the past year underscores the economy's resilience. Retail inflation has declined by 390 basis points, driven by a correction in food prices, which have fallen by over 1,000 basis points since December 2024. This moderation has not come at the expense of farm incomes, as prices had risen from an exceptionally high base; annualised price growth for farm output has remained buoyant at 5 percent or higher.

Urban consumption sentiment has staged a recovery after a prolonged slowdown. The downturn began even before the pandemic in 2019. The Reserve Bank of India's Consumer Confidence Index—which captures households' willingness to spend—is now at a six-year high. This improvement is reflected in indicators of discretionary spending, such as passenger vehicle sales. Demand for entry-level cars has revived, and Bollywood box-office collections have reached a three-year high so far in FY26.

Consumption remains a pillar of India's growth model, accounting for 60 percent of the national income. India's domestic consumption base has historically acted as an economic 'iron dome' during global stress. This resilience was seen during the Asian Financial Crisis, the Global Financial Crisis or the taper tantrum. That buffer appears active again, even as global trade dynamics shift.

The blemish in an otherwise resilient macro backdrop has been the depreciation of the Indian rupee against the US dollar. This has occurred despite record-high foreign exchange reserves and a comfortable current account position. At this point, geopolitical considerations seem to drive the rupee's weakness more than economic fundamentals.

The rupee could regain some lost ground once a trade agreement with the United States materialises. Foreign investors may also regain confidence in Indian markets. Foreign investor risk appetite towards India appears constrained by strains in India-US relations. A trade deal could resolve this uncertainty.

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present her ninth consecutive budget against this backdrop. Like recent budgets, this one may prioritise public capex while trying to rein in revenue expenditure to control the fiscal deficit. Reducing public debt as a share of GDP is a constitutional responsibility, with positive spillovers for private investment and access to cheaper capital. India's sovereign rating upgrade from BBB- to BBB earlier in FY26 is conditional on sustained fiscal consolidation—especially as major economies, including the US, face rating pressures due to rising debt levels.

Emphasis on public capex in FY27 could catalyse the recovery in private investment that began in mid-FY26, supporting job creation—particularly in manufacturing sectors capable of absorbing India's semi-skilled workforce. By my estimates, domestic private investment announcements rose by 25 percent year-on-year in FY26, with nearly ₹5 lakh crore worth of stalled projects recommissioned, compared to ₹2 lakh crore in the previous year. FY27 could carry forward this corporate confidence, especially as domestic demand continues to strengthen.

FY27 could mark a shift towards broader regulatory easing aimed at lowering capital costs and stimulating private investment. Large-ticket consumer sectors—such as automobiles and housing—are likely to benefit as employment conditions improve and household cash flows strengthen. Gold prices may not see a correction in the near term, at least until the US mid-term elections.

To conclude, I align with the policy strategy of empowering corporate India. Catalysts include public capital expenditure, production-linked incentives, MSME credit guarantees and regulatory easing. A healthy private sector is needed to generate the scale of employment required for India to transition into a middle-income economy.

Leveraging India's demographic dividend is the need of the hour. While the country rightly takes pride in its large youth population—comparable to the entire US population—it also faces one of the highest levels of youth unemployment. This challenge has intensified each year. Investments in social development will yield a more productive workforce over the next decade or two. Still, the immediate imperative for a capital-deficient economy like India is job creation. Policies that accelerate private investment and employment generation must take precedence today, while longer-term social outcomes can continue to be built in parallel.

(Views are personal)

EPICS STILL SPEAK

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

IN the ongoing holy month of Magh, and in recognition that Indian epics are deeply internalised and encoded at levels we may have perhaps lost touch with, I would like to share a few points about our epics this week.

A fascinating unity of purpose holds these epics together that you'll notice too whether you are deeply Hindu, nominally Hindu, of another persuasion, or an atheist. So, let's review what constitutes an Indian epic.

Expectedly, its deep components are unique to India compared to other epics in the old universe of discourse. To take the three most famous epics of the western world, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* (Greek) and the *Aeneid* (Latin), the themes seem quite similar at first—men vs fate, with the jealous gods in the thick of it all, the warring heroes and villains, the patient women who endure, the women who are sacrificed to serve the larger male cause, the journeys, adventures, deaths, laments, victories and the life-code points made at great personal cost.

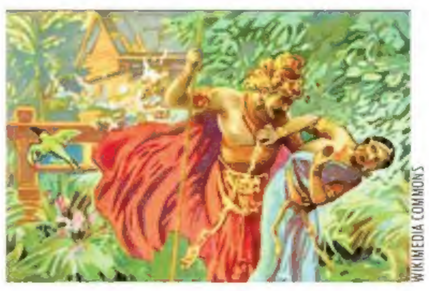
But while the old gods of the Greeks and Romans lost their devotees, as did the other old gods of Europe, the gods, heroes and heroines of epic India have stayed very much alive and are still loved by millions. The three foundational Indian epics remain the *Ramayana*, the *Mahabharata* and the *Srimad Bhagavatam*. They were written in Sanskrit and inspired retellings in many other languages.

Regarding the *Ramayana*, I like to stick with the root epic, Valmiki's *Ramayana*, which others acknowledge as their official source, while adding, opposing, questioning or nuancing bits with their own 'masala'. Moreover, I stay with the first six books, which officially end the epic with the hero's homecoming and coronation and the *phala shruti* or list of listeners' benefits.

The seventh book is generally considered a *prakshipta*, or a later addition or interpolation. In my view, it certainly adds unsustainable twists and turns, and so I choose to cheerfully discard it.

To partially illustrate the rationale for this choice, let's take an iconic modern book as an example. *Gone with the Wind* is complete the way Margaret Mitchell wrote it; it's the original book. It leaves us longing to know more about Scarlett and Rhett, and if somebody writes a 'sequel', as somebody did, which I've read, it may be interesting, but it's not by Margaret Mitchell. The style and substance differ. It may be worth keeping or amount to just one read out of curiosity. But it's not Margaret Mitchell's story, the one we like. That's how it is for many with the Valmiki *Ramayana*.

In my case, this is not because I don't celebrate plurality—who can help responding to the beauty of the *Ramcharitmanas* by Tulsidas, for example? I recognise that the *Ramayana* has dialogued unceasingly with the Indic bandwidth and beyond. I've spoken at the National Museum, Bangkok to wrap an eight-country international *Ramayana* dance festival, about how the *Ramayana* is 'the Epic of Asia' in ways not fully counted yet. There's even a version in Mongolia.



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

While the old Greek, Roman and other European gods lost their devotees, the gods, heroes and heroines of epic India have stayed very much alive and are still loved by millions. This can be illustrated by the many renditions of the *Ramayana* across the Indian subcontinent and beyond

I choose to stick with the root story because I don't want to be confused or confuse others. Therefore, I don't 'buy' the Uttara Kand, the seventh book that has allegedly been tacked on to Valmiki's *Ramayana* later.

I curl my lip at the Lakshman rekha—how literal a device, though touchingly respectful. In Valmiki's *Ramayana*, Ravan drags Sita away by her hair and holds her in his arms. But Tulsi, bless his heart, couldn't handle the sacrilegious thought in the 16th century of Ravan laying his hands on Sita. Much as I honour and appreciate Tulsi's chivalry, it's another reason why I choose to clinically stick to Valmiki. It's the Ramayana 'as it is' without the little zari curtains.

This view need not be a cause for quarrel. As Tulsi himself says, "*Hari anant, Hari katha ananta, kahat sunat bahuvidhi sab santa*", meaning, God is infinite and so are the stories about God, which are told and heard in different ways by saints.

That being noted, what are the five points that define an Indian epic? The first point is that it concerns itself with the Paramatma or Supersoul or God, the macro-cosmic entity guessed at, sketched, debated and discussed from the time of the oldest Indian scriptures.

Thereby, an Indian epic's second point is that it features the Jivatma or individual soul, and its awareness or ignorance of its relationship with the Supersoul.

The third point of an Indian epic is that the events described in it must illuminate the path by which an individual soul can merge into or attain the Supersoul without enduring any more lives on earth. This liberation from the cycle of birth and death is called moksha, and the epic must contain and illustrate the *praapti upaay* or means to achieve moksha.

Fourthly, an Indian epic must illustrate the advantages, principally the state of grace or sublime happiness obtained by moksha. Attaining this 'fruit of liberation' is called *phala praapti*.

Fifthly, the Indian epic must complete the matter by detailing through the events it describes, the *praapti virodhi* or obstacles to attainment. How else may a listener be fruitfully instructed in which attitudes, actions and responses to avoid?

And there you pretty much have it, that the modest endeavour of the Indian epic is to unite persons muddling along in life with the highest spiritual or cosmic energy out there and deep within us. An Indian epic has work to do, which it tirelessly does even today.

(Views are personal)
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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Iranian fate

Ref: *Iran inferno* (Jan 18). History reminds us that when governments yield to personal ambition at the expense of national fate, disaster ensues. The Islamic Republic is resting on the repressive habit of defying reality to hold on to power. The agonising catch-22 for India demands immediate diplomacy over belligerent action.
Faseehul Huqq, Malappuram

Humanity's safeguards

Beyond strategy papers and power politics, escalating tensions around Iran threaten ordinary lives. Each provocation narrows the space for dialogue and widens the risk of a war that civilians will pay for first. History shows such conflicts rarely stay regional. Prudence, empathy, and diplomacy remain humanity's last safeguards.
Minhaj, Kozhikode

Marital autonomy

Ref: *The crisis of relationship recession* (Jan 18). In India marriage as an institution is not dying. It is undergoing significant structural and ideological evolution, particularly in urban areas where women are relatively more educated and financially independent. Marriages must become a conscious choice rather than a societal necessity.
N Rama Rao, email

Toying Congress

Ref: *Cong leadership* (Jan 18). Despite limited outreach and huge vulnerabilities, Congress is toying with various options. It suffers from inner party indiscipline and leaders express divergent opinions in public. The high command should decide alliance strategy quickly to set the right direction.
Rajarao Kumar, Bengaluru

Wooing voters

Ref: *AIADMK's poll sops* (Jan 18). The AIADMK joining the voter-wooing bandwagon is no surprise. This reckless race worsens the state's debt and reflects political expediency over responsibility. In contrast, Naam Tamilar Katchi leader Seeman's firm opposition to freebies reflects rare fiscal maturity.
K Venkatasubramanian, Chennai

Mumbai contest

Ref: *Shinde tends flock* (Jan 18). The real battle has now inevitably shifted to the mayoral and deputy-mayoral posts, which have become more crucial than the municipality elections themselves. So, there may not be any end to horse-trading and such other things.
P V Prakash, Mumbai

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
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POSTS OF THE DAY

Sambit Patra @sambitswaraj
Congress's negative politics is being continuously rejected by the country. The city of Mumbai, where Congress was born, has today reduced it to a fourth or fifth-ranked party.

Yogi Adityanath @myogiadityanathp
62 lakh families are receiving the facility of homes for the first time after independence, the credit for this goes to the vision of the Prime Minister...

Nitin Gadkari @nitin_gadkari
The news of the passing of former minister, former president of Mumbai BJP, and my friend Raj Purohit ji is heartbreaking. My heartfelt tribute to him.

BJP calls CMs, state chiefs to Delhi for party prez poll

Nabin elevation certain, show likely to be turned into display of unity

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE BJP has asked all chief ministers of BJP-ruled states, state unit presidents and other senior leaders to assemble at the party headquarters in Delhi on Monday to take part in the process for the election of the party's national president.

Although working national president Nitin Nabin is most likely to be made the party president, the BJP intends to turn his elevation into a major display of organisational unity, said party leaders familiar with the matter.

"The party has already made arrangements to appoint Nitin Nabin as national president after securing the consent of nearly all members of the electoral college, which comprises 5,078 members. However, the formal election process will be completed as per procedure," a senior BJP leader said on Sunday. According to the notification issued by BJP national returning officer K Laxman Laxman, the nomination for the election of the party chief can be filed between 2 pm and 4 pm on January 19 and the nominations can be withdrawn by the candidates between 5 pm and 6 pm the same day.

The scrutiny of the nomination papers will be carried out between 4 pm and 5 pm on January 19. The polling will be held if needed on January 20 and the name of the new elected BJP national president will be announced on the same day, the notification said.

A senior BJP leader said, "All chief ministers will be present on the occasion. In addition, all BJP state unit presidents and other prominent party leaders will also attend the election process for the party president."

The BJP national president is elected by an electoral college comprising representatives from the party's national council and state councils.

According to the BJP constitution, any 20 members of the electoral college from a state can jointly propose the name of a candidate for the post of national president, provided the person has been an active member for four years and has at least 15 years of membership. Such a joint proposal must come from no fewer than five states where elections to the national council have been completed, the constitution stipulates.

POWER CONCLAVE

INSIDE PARTY'S ELECTION PROCESS

5,078 electoral college formula

Includes national council+state councils

Process overseen by returning officer

ELECTION SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT
Jan 19	Nomination filing (2–4 pm)
Jan 19	Scrutiny (4–5 pm)
Jan 19	Withdrawal (5–6 pm)
Jan 20	Result announcement

ELIGIBILITY RULES

Active member for **4** terms

Minimum **15** years membership

Proposal by **20** members from one state

Backing from at least **5** states

After World Bank claim of pollution deaths, Cong says govt living in denial

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

CONGRESS on Sunday questioned how long the Modi government would continue to "live in denial" over the growing crisis of air pollution, while citing a recent World Bank report that estimates nearly one million premature deaths every year across India and four of its neighbouring countries.

Referring to the World Bank's latest study, 'A Breath of Change: Air Pollution in the Indo-Gangetic Plains and Himalayan Foothills (IGP-HF)', All India Congress Committee general secretary Jairam Ramesh said that the report outlines both the scale of the problem and the urgent measures required to address it. He called for an uncompromising implementation of pollution norms without any dilution, emphasising the need for stricter enforcement.

He stressed that key recommendations include strict enforcement of emission norms for coal-based power plants and the accelerated retirement of the oldest and most polluting units.

The Congress leader said the report advocates a shift away from fragmented, city-centric approaches to legally empowered, airshed-based governance frameworks that transcend state boundaries. He said that the report has also recommended expanding and electrifying public transport systems, tightening vehicle emission norms and fuel standards and strengthening institutional coordination to effectively combat air pollution.

Highlighting a deepening AQI-driven public health crisis in the capital, Ramesh said the Congress has repeatedly called for a comprehensive review of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and the National Ambient Air Quality Standards of 2009, with a sharper focus on fine particulate matter (PM 2.5).

According to the report, nearly one billion people in the region are exposed to unhealthy air, leading to approximately one million premature deaths annually. It has also estimated that economic losses due to air pollution are nearly 10% of the region's GDP every year.

INSIDER TRACK

Delhi watches, Bengal worries

West Bengal's election season has begun with a familiar mix of suspicion and supervision. The Election Commission's decision to appoint central observers for objections raised hackles in the ruling TMC, which wondered aloud why Bengal was being singled out. The ECI's response was characteristically dry: it can appoint observers from anywhere, and often does. The real story, though, lies beneath the protest. According to ECI, Bengal has deputed relatively junior officials as Electoral Registration Officers and Assistant EROs, unlike other states. Managing voter rolls is no training exercise, and the ECI thinks experience matters. A case of the referee trying to stay close to get the job done. Just to be safe.

Tamil pride, perfectly timed

With Tamil Nadu elections just three months away, Tamil culture is suddenly everywhere. Pongal celebrations have become a political itinerary highlight, with Prime Minister Modi in Delhi, ministers dropping by festive gatherings, and senior leaders making careful linguistic forays into Tamil. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has been especially busy, celebrating Pongal at IIT Madras, attending Tughlaq magazine's anniversary, speaking Tamil at Kashi Sangamam in Rameswaram, and releasing a Braille edition of the Thirukkural. It's a full-blown Tamil renaissance, warmly packaged and widely shared. Admirers see respect for language and heritage. Cynics see impeccable timing. Either way, culture has become campaign shorthand, and Tamil pride is clearly having its moment in the political spotlight.

Space, shrinking roles not included

As ministries migrate from Shastri Bhawan to the sleek new Common Central Secretariat, not everyone is celebrating the move. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is packing up, but the Press Information Bureau finds itself without a dedicated home. A new policy envisions just one Chief of Media Communication per ministry, absorbing what was once PIB's domain. PIB officers, however, argue their role goes far beyond issuing press notes. They handle operations, coordination, and administration, work that doesn't vanish with a name change. Now, they may have to borrow space at the National Media Centre when needed. It's a familiar bureaucratic paradox: responsibilities remain intact, but the space to perform them quietly disappears.

A Slovak accent in fluent Hindi

Diplomats who speak local languages are rare enough to be memorable, and rarer still when they speak them well. Slovak Ambassador Robert Maxian's fluent Hindi has earned him admiration in Delhi's diplomatic and social circles. In India since March 2022, but connected to the country for nearly fifteen years, Maxian studied international trade at IIFT and previously served in the Slovak Embassy's commercial wing. Hindi speeches at national day events and New Year messages come naturally to him, not as token gestures. He often calls India his second home, and it shows. In a profession built on protocol, his comfort with language stands out, quietly proving that diplomacy works best when it listens, learns, and speaks back.

Advani-Joshi's ballot blocker

If the BJP holds its full-time national president election on January 20, veterans Lal Kishan Advani and Murli Manohar Joshi may miss the voting drama. Not age, not health, but paperwork trips them. Both sit on the BJP Council from Delhi, yet the state unit's election isn't finished. So, Delhi's National Council nominees remain unelected, keeping the duo out of the Electoral College. If the working president, Nitin Nabin, cruises to an uncontested victory, no vote is needed. But a contest would silence the founders. Both currently sit on the party's advisory board. It is an awkward twist, quietly buzzing through Lutyens' corridors.

With new batch of Garud commandoes, Air Force raises combat firepower

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

A new batch of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) special force commandos joined the service after completion of their training. Assistant Chief of Air Staff Operations (Air Defence) reviewed the parade as the chief guest of the event.

The IAF on Sunday said, "To mark the successful completion of training of Air Force Special Forces operatives of 'Garud' force, Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade was held on January 17, 2026 at Garud Regimental Training Centre (GRTC), Air Force Station Chandinagar."

The chief guest congratulated the 'Garuds' on their successful passing out. While addressing the young commandos, he emphasised on the significance of rigorous training and honing special forces skills to keep pace with the fast changing security scenario.

He presented Maroon Beret, Garud Proficiency Badge and Special Forces Tabs to the successful 'Garud' trainees and gave away trophies to the awardees. The IAF Added, "Considering the role of IAF special forces in Operation Sindoor, the newly passed out Special Force Operators will further strengthen the capability of IAF to undertake newly defined special missions."

During the passing-out ceremony, the 'Garuds' demonstrated various skills such as combat firing, hostage rescue, firing drill, assault explosives, obstacle crossing, wall climbing, slithering, rappelling and military martial arts. Terming the Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade as a moment of pride and achievement for the 'Garuds' the IAF said it marks "the befitting culmination of an extremely demanding training schedule and their transformation into 'Young Special Forces Operators' joining the elite 'Garud' force."

The maroon beret in the military parlance represents the elite operatives of the airborne units, special forces operatives and is awarded to those who accomplish the probation followed by tough training.

Vande Bharat 4.0 to focus on export quality, safety markers

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

> **The upcoming next-generation model of the Vande Bharat platform is aimed at setting higher global benchmark in performance, passangers comfort, and overall build quality** —Railway official

AMID the growing success of the three variants of Vande Bharat trains, including the Sleeper version launched on Saturday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Indian Railways has geared up to bring the Vande Bharat 4.0 version trains over the next 18 months.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw recently said that the Modi government is committed to connecting every city with Vande Bharat services, with plans to introduce 800 trains by 2030 and more than 4,500 trains of the latest generation by 2047 - the year India aims to become a developed nation and a global power.

After achieving the desired results with the Vande Bharat 3.0 version and other initial versions-featuring enhanced performance parameters such as faster acceleration from 0 to 100 kmph in about 52 seconds and improved ride quality, Indian Railways is now working towards the next evolution through the Vande Bharat 4.0 version of express trains, targeted for introduction by 2027.

The upcoming Vande Bharat 4.0 version is envisaged to incorporate Kavach 5.0, the next evolution of India's indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection system, forming a core part of its advanced safety and technology framework.

With railway mobility emerging as a central pillar of national development as India advances towards its vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047, Indian Railways has revolutionised passenger services through the introduction of the Vande Bharat class of fast trains. This flagship initiative provides faster, safer, more reliable and passenger-centric rail travel across the country.

According to an official source who shared it on Saturday, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the country's first Vande Bharat Sleeper Express trains to run between Assam and West Bengal, the upcoming Vande Bharat Express 4.0 version will match global standards. The Vande Bharat 4.0 train sets will be quipped with the Kavach (anti-collision device) 5.0 version as part of their advanced safety and technology framework while serving the nation.

"Vande Bharat 4.0 is the upcoming next-generation model of the Vande Bharat platform, aimed at setting higher global benchmark in performance, passangers comfort and overall build quality", remarked a railway official.

India global leader with 8.5 lakh cooperatives

VISMAY BASU @ New Delhi

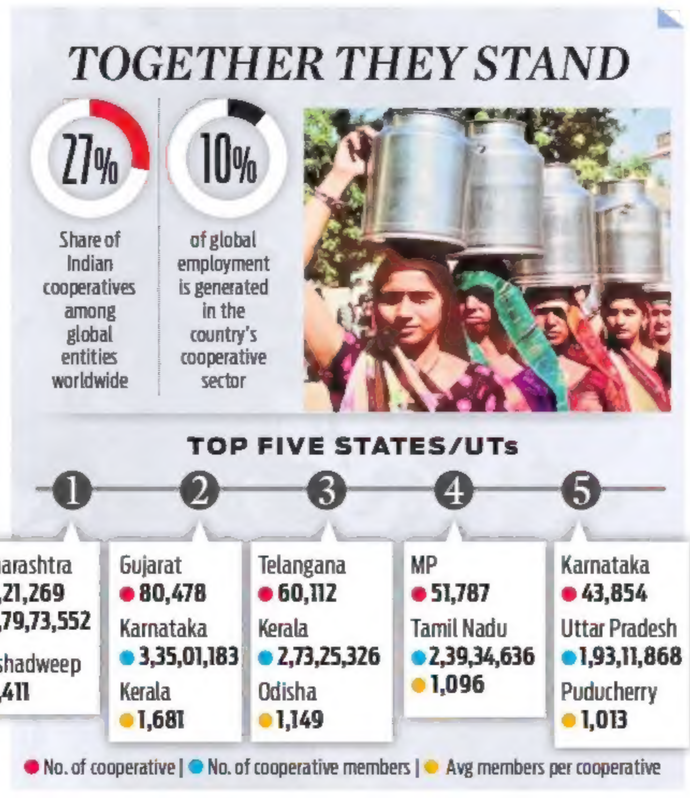
INDIA'S cooperative sector has expanded over the past three years into one of the largest organised economic networks globally. The number of registered cooperatives now stands at about 8.5 lakh, with membership close to 32 crore, according to official and sectoral data.

The National Cooperative Database shows that India had around 7.94 lakh cooperatives and 29.08 crore members by late 2023. By December 2024, functional cooperatives were estimated at about 6.21 lakh, while membership remained near 28.7 crore. Further registrations and improved data mapping through 2025 lifted membership by nearly three crore within just over two years.

Officials attribute the expansion to renewed policy focus on grassroot economic sectors in agriculture, credit, dairy, fisheries, housing and small services, and to consolidation of previously fragmented records under a single national database.

Maharashtra leads with over 2.21 lakh cooperatives and nearly 5.8 crore members. Karnataka and Kerala report very high membership relative to the number of registered societies, while Gujarat, Telangana, UP, Bihar, and West Bengal together account for several crore members. Cooperatives often link households across multiple activities, such as farming, savings, production, and consumption, which explains their wide social reach despite a limited number of societies compared with private firms.

India accounts for about 27% of cooperatives worldwide. International study suggest cooperatives support about 10% of global employment, with around 15 Indian entities featuring in the Global Top 300 rankings. The financial segment remains significant. As of March 2025, India had 1,457 urban cooperative banks, holding assets of about ₹7.38 trillion and deposits of roughly ₹5.84 trillion.



Science institutions look to improve global rankings with 10-year vision

S LALITHA @ New Delhi

THE Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have set a target of increasing their overall student admissions to 21,000 across their undergraduate and postgraduate streams by 2030. The institutes will also encourage intake of international students and provide them scholarships.

The seven IISERs, considered institutes of national importance (INIs), recently submitted their roadmap, 'Vision 2030 and Vision 2035,' to the education ministry. This newspaper has accessed the document of the IISERs located in Pune, Kolkata, Mohali, Bhopal, Thiruvananthapuram, Tirupati and Behrampur.

The five-year roadmap states that one Centre of Excellence (COE) will be set up in each IISER on subjects in line with the current trends. Advanced computing, rare earth and critical materials, energy, sustainability and climate change, agri and food technologies are among the topics identified so far. "These COEs will enable IISERs to take on greater roles in national mission-mode projects that typically require multi-institutional, collaborative efforts to deliver the desired result in a time-bound manner," the document said.

Enhancing the national and international rankings of the IISERs so that all of them figure in the top 100 of the National Institutional Rank Framework is another key goal.

A key goal is to set parallel academic streams to train students for making them excellent faculty and researchers. "By 2030, all these institutions will develop a plan for a joint international campus which will be subsequently developed over the next few years," it said. The document states, "To increase collaborations across IISERs, at least two joint degree programs that span across all IISERs will be instituted by 2030.

Degree programs with other leading universities both in India and abroad will also be instituted." The 10-year vision plan aims at setting up extension centres and additional centres for each IISER.

TRAGEDY AVERTED

Police averted a stampede-like situation at a popular Kali temple in north Kolkata on Sunday evening, as thousands of devotees gathered on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya during the holy month of Magh.

1 DEAD AS CAR HITS CAMEL IN RAJ'S BHILWARA

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	26	14	Mumbai	27	21
Bhopal	24	12	Panaji	30	19
Jaipur	23	12	Patna	19	11
Amritsar	13	07	Lucknow	22	12
Chennai	28	21	Port Blair	28	23
Kolkata	26	15	Imphal	22	09
Srinagar	09	-2	Chandigarh	19	08

PM kicks off projects worth ₹830 cr, three Amrit Bharat trains in Bengal

Centre also developing ports, exploring waterway connectivity, Modi says in poll-bound state

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR & SUBHENDU MAITI @ New Delhi/Kolkata

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched development projects worth over ₹830 crore in poll-bound West Bengal and flagged off three Amrit Bharat trains connecting Kolkata with other parts of the country.

At a function in Singur of Hooghly district in the state, Modi also inaugurated the Jayrambati-Barogopinathpur-Maynapur rail line, and flagged off a train between Maynapur and Jayrambati.

While addressing a gathering, he said, "For a developed India, development of Eastern India, the Centre is continuously working with this goal. The programmes of yesterday and today are going to further strengthen this resolve." He further asserted that one of the trains inaugurated would strengthen connectivity between his parliamentary constituency Kashi Banaras and Bengal.

On the potential of waterways in Bengal, Modi said, "There are many possibilities for waterways in Bengal. The Centre is also working on this. Here assistance is also being provided in creating the necessary infrastructure for port led development."

Narendra Modi with Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at Singur on Sunday | PTI

He added that the foundation stone and inauguration of projects related to ports and river waterways had also been carried out, which would be very important for the development of both West Bengal and India.

Emphasising the role of ports, he said, "These are the pillars on which West Bengal can be made a big hub of manufacturing, trade and logistics. The more emphasis we put on the port and its associated ecosystem, the more employment will be generated here."

A huge investment had been made by the Centre over the past 11 years for capacity expansion at Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port, he said, adding "To improve the connectivity of this port, roads have also been built under the Sagarmala Scheme. We can all see its results today," he claimed.

Touching upon Balagarh port, the PM said, "This will reduce traffic and logistics pressure in Kolkata city. Cargo movement will further increase through the waterway built on Ganga."

Reiterating his government's commitment, he said, "Today in India we are laying great emphasis on multi-modal connectivity and green mobility. To make seamless transportation possible, ports, rivers, waterways, highways and airports, all of them are being connected. This is reducing both logistics cost and transportation time."

He added that the government was also ensuring that transport systems are environmental friendly. "Hybrid electric boats will boost both river transport and green mobility. This will make movement on the Hooghly River easier, reduce the problem of pollution and will also strengthen river-based tourism", he said.

The PM said that India is progressing rapidly in the production and export of fisheries and seafood. "My dream is that West Bengal should lead the country in this. The Central Government is majorly supporting Bengal in its vision regarding river waterways. Along with the farmers here, our fishermen friends are also benefiting from this."

India progressing in production & export of fisheries

The PM said that India is progressing rapidly in the production and export of fisheries and seafood. "My dream is that West Bengal should lead the country in this. The Central government is majorly supporting Bengal in its vision regarding river waterways," he expressed.

Eight soldiers injured in encounter with terrorists in Kishtwar's high peaks

Operations are on with extra forces inducted to reinforce the cordon, backed by coordination with civil admin and security agencies

Army

3rd gun battle

This is the third encounter between the security forces and terrorists in the Jammu region this year. Encounters broke out in Kahog and Najote forests in the Billawar area of Kathua on January 7 and 13.

FAYAZ WANI @ Jammu

AS many as eight soldiers of the Army were reportedly injured in an encounter with terrorists in the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Sunday.

"Contact was established with terrorists in the general area Son Nar, northeast of Chhatru in Kishtwar district during a deliberate search operation conducted as part of ongoing joint counter-terror operations alongwith Jammu and Kashmir police," Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps posted on X.

The intense exchange of fire between the two sides lasted several hours before the guns fell silent. Reinforcements have been deployed to strengthen the cordon and neutralise the terrorists, the officials said. The operation, which the Army's Jammu-based White Knight Corps has named 'Operation Trashi-I', began around noon. In a post on X, the White Knight Corps said the security forces came in contact with the terrorists in the general area Sonnar, northeast of Chatroo, during a search operation conducted as part of ongoing joint counter-terror exercises along with Jammu and Kashmir Police.

"Operations remain underway with additional forces inducted to reinforce the cordon, supported by close coordination with civil administration and security agencies," the Army said.

According to the officials, one of the search teams came across a group of two to three foreign terrorists allegedly belonging to Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), who fired indiscriminately and also lobbed a few grenades in an attempt to break the cordon.

The troops retaliated and reinforcements from Army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and police were rushed to further tighten the cordon. There was intermittent firing between the two sides till 5.40 pm, the officials said. The injured soldiers were evacuated to the hospital.

LUCKNOW DIARY

NAMITA BAJPAI

Our correspondent in Uttar Pradesh

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Bahubali may contest '29 polls from Ayodhya

The Lok Sabha polls are still three years away, but the all-important Ayodhya seat is back in focus. The seat of Ram Janmabhoomi and the newly constructed temple grabbed much spotlight after the BJP lost from here in 2024 polls, just four months after the consecration of Ram Lalla Idol. The loser from the BJP was Lallu Singh, a multiple-time MLA and MP from the constituency. Now, Bahubali from neighbouring Gonda, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was not given the ticket by the BJP in 2024 due to the case of sexual harassment of women wrestlers is flexing his muscles. He has said he would contest 2029 elections even if the BJP doesn't field him.

No. of women/1k men drops from 877 to 824

The SIR of UP's rolls has come up with a depressing data regarding gender ratio. The number of women per 1000 men has come down from 877 to 824. As per Census 2011, UP's gender ratio was 911. The number of women voters has come down from approximately 7.22 crore to around 5.67 crore, a reduction of about 1.54 crore, or 21.4%. Male voters saw a comparatively lower dip of 16.3%, from roughly 8.23 crore to 6.88 crore, resulting in a net decrease of around 1.34 crore. A key indicator involves over 59% drop in the number of women aged 25 years and above whose EPICs listed their father's name rather than husband's or other details.

Lucknow to get north India's 1st water metro

Lucknow could soon become the first city in north India to have a water metro. An expert committee of the transport department is preparing a technical feasibility report for the project. In its initial study, the panel found a 6km stretch between Lal Pul and Gomti barrage navigable with the required depth and breadth of the river. A transport dept officials said that it would carry at least 50 passengers in one ride, operating on rechargeable batteries and would be environmentally friendly. People can use this metro both for commuting and tourism purpose, he added. The department is working with Kochi Metro on the project.

Intel agencies warn of LeT recruitment drive in PoK

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

PAKISTAN-BASED terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) has launched a renewed and intensified recruitment campaign with an aim to establish new training camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Indian intelligence agencies have learned.

The recruitment campaign is being spearheaded by senior LeT commander Nasr Javed. Sources said Javed has visited several strategic locations in PoK over the past few months to mobilise local youth.

Over the past two weeks, he was in Mirpur, Kotli and Poonch districts of PoK. During these visits, he addressed more than four open rallies organised by the PoK unit of Lashkar-e-Taiba and held over 10 closed-door meetings with local operatives and sympathisers.

The primary objective of these engagements, intelligence sources said, is to recruit young men for the new LeT training camps expected to come up soon in PoK.

Javed is considered a key operational figure within LeT and is known for his expertise in terrorist training. As per the sources, Javed has been tasked with raising a new unit in PoK, with a specific mandate to prepare recruits for counter-insurgency and cross-border operations.

Noting that the recruitment push is not confined to PoK, the intelligence sources said in November last year, Javed, along with LeT operative Abdul Rauf, held more than 50 rallies and secret meetings across Pakistan's Sindh province. "Security agencies assess that these coordinated visits across provinces point to an effort to build a broader pool of recruits and revive LeT's operational strength nationwide," a source said.

Meanwhile, intelligence inputs suggest that efforts to reactivate Markaz-e-Taiba, the LeT's headquarters, are gaining pace. Buildings damaged during Operation Sindoor are being repaired with photographs and videos of construction activity circulating on social media, sources said.

Tejashwi likely to be made RJD working prez

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

BIHAR assembly LoP Tejashwi Prasad Yadav is likely to be appointed the RJD's working president in view of party chief Lalu Prasad's health condition. A decision to that effect may be taken at the RJD's national executive committee meeting to be held on January 25.

Tejashwi's possible elevation in the RJD will happen at a time when he is facing challenges not only politically after his party suffered a drubbing in the assembly election but also personally as his elder brother and former minister Tej Pratap Yadav and sister Rohini Acharya have upped their ante against his close aides.

"Doctors have advised Lalu to take rest and stay away from stress, due to which he is able to play only a limited role in political activities. In such a situation, the selection of a working president is considered necessary," said an RJD leader aware of the development.

Both Lalu and Tejashwi were granted full authority in the party's national executive meeting held in January last year over all major decisions related to the party. The party constitution was also amended to enable Tejashwi to share equal decision-making authority with Lalu.

Fungal disease, torrential rain cut HP apple output by 50%

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

APPLE production in the disaster-hit Himachal Pradesh declined by approximately 50% this year owing to torrential rains, harsh weather and a severe fungal disease.

As heavy rains damaged the connecting roads to the apple belts of the state, the fruit could not reach the markets. Now, a prolonged dry spell and lack of snowfall have left apple growers anxious, with fears that if the current conditions persist, the apple crop could suffer more damage.

The state government has sought the Centre's urgent intervention against the crippling influx of foreign apples besides seeking inclusion of apples in the 'special category' to shield domestic growers from unfair international competition.

The hill state generates around ₹4,500 crore annually from apple production, which accounts for nearly 80% of the state's total fruit output, as the apple economy supports nearly 2.5 lakh apple growers and creates about 10 lakh man-days of employment every year.

On an average, the state produces about 5.5 lakh metric tonnes of apple every year.

Talking to this newspaper, Harish Chauhan, a leading apple grower and the convener of the Kisan Samyukt Manch, said, "Around 50% apple trees in each orchard were affected by the Alternaria leaf spot fungal infection, as Alternaria blotch primarily damage leaves of apple plants, resulting in premature defoliation and damage to fruit."

"Due to this fungal infection, the size of the apple remained small as it shrunk by about 50%. The quality was bad especially colour of the fruit, and there was a 50% decline in the yield. This fungus multiplied in the apple crop due to high rainfall and high moisture levels," he said and added that further the problem was complicated as due to heavy rains the roads were damaged during the monsoon thus making the markets inaccessible and the crop had to be dumped.

Around 30% "culled" apples were bought under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) by the state government at ₹12 per kg. "The rates fell steeply as box of apples which contains (22-24 kg) is sold around ₹2,500 per box but this year it was sold between ₹1,000 to ₹1,200 per box. Thus a apple which was costing ₹100 was sold between ₹40 and ₹60," he said.

Chauhan said, "With the Union Budget around the corner, we are hoping for major relief as we are demanding higher import duties on foreign apples, minimum support price (MSP) for apples and subsidies on fertilisers and pesticides to offset escalating production costs."

POWER OF WORDS

Let us deal with imperfection of our institutions: Former CJI

ADITHI REENA AJITH @ Jaipur

DAY 4 of the Jaipur Literature Festival at Clarks Amer unfolded with full festivities.

The day began on a cultural note at the Vedanta Front Lawn, where the Ao Naga Choir set a contemplative tone with melancholic melodies drawn from Naga folk traditions. The music flowed into the Ao Naga dance form.

One of the most emotionally resonant sessions of the day was 'The Poetry Pharmacy: Prescriptions for the Mind, Body and Soul,' featuring poet and editor William Sieghart in conversation with Karuna Ezara Parikh, with poetry readings by Sumanto Chattopadhyay. The session explored Sieghart's poetic trilogy The Poetry Pharmacy, which offers poems as emotional remedies for life situations.

Yet it was the much-anticipated session with former CJI DY Chandrachud that drew the largest crowd. Titled 'What Is Justice?,' the session saw Chandrachud discuss his book 'Why the Constitution Matters' with journalist Vir Sanghvi. He spoke at length about prolonged undertrial incarceration and the constitutional principle of bail before conviction, among other things. "Our institutions are imperfect," he said, "but democracy is about recognising those imperfections and trying to improve them."

Former CJI DY Chandrachud at the event on Sunday | X

As the evening unfolded, the festival turned its gaze toward the Northeast with 'These Hills Called Home,' featuring writers Rashmi Narzary, Kunzang Choden, and Bijoya Sawian in conversation with Prajwal Parajuly. The session explored life in the hills.

The day also featured 'Ye Dil Manga More,' a session on the rise of manga.

Many Indias of Gandhi, Savarkar & Jinnah

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

AN insightful session of the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) brought together a bunch of scholars to discuss the divergent ideologies and legacies of Mahatma Gandhi, VD Savarkar, and Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The panel highlighted how these three figures, through their contrasting visions, shaped the destiny of the undivided India and continue to influence political discourse. Featuring historian Alex von Tunzelmann, well-known scholar Makarand Paranjape and author Kishwar Desai, this special session saw deliberations on some of the most complex ideological conflicts related to India's freedom struggle and the process of nation-building. Held at the 'Baithak' platform of JLF on Saturday evening, the session discussed the ideas, ideals and differences between Gandhi, Jinnah and Savarkar.

The panel highlighted how these three figures, through their contrasting visions, shaped the destiny of the undivided India and still influence discourse | EXPRESS

In his opening remarks, Makarand Paranjape laid stress on the ideological clash between Gandhi and Savarkar. In the context of his new book 'Hindutva and Hind Swaraj', Paranjape elaborated on the Gandhi-Savarkar differences that, in his view, reflected the larger clash between various factions within Hindu society. He specifically noted Savarkar's opposition to Gandhi's support for the Khilafat movement.

Tunzelmann, author of 'Indian Summer,' analysed the roles of Jinnah and Gandhi in the Partition of India and focussed on the global ramifications of their political choices. She stated that the partition of Tunzelmann compared Gandhi's moral politics and non-violence-based vision with Jinnah's initial constitutional thinking and his later communal politics.

Author and playwright Kishwar Desai, who moderated the discussion, also cited the late economist Meghnad Desai's book 'Mohan and Mohammed' in order to discuss some lesser-known events in the lives of Gandhi and Jinnah. Speakers during the session also discussed the significance of two seminal books published in 1909 – Gandhi's 'Hind Swaraj' and Savarkar's 'The Indian War of Independence'.

The panellists agreed that the conflicting and sometimes clashing ideologies of Gandhi, Savarkar, and Jinnah have decisively shaped the India we know today.

15 killed as wildfires rage in Chile, many forced to evacuate

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	19	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	29	23	TDS	Melbourne	17	5	LC
Dhaka	27	16	TDS	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	22	SNY	New York	2	-3	SNY
Houston	30	23	TDS	Singapore	27	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	-6	-8	SNY
London	12	8	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Syrian govt declares ceasefire, dismantles SDF control

RAQQA

THE Syrian government Sunday announced a ceasefire with the Syrian Democratic Forces, taking almost full control of the country and dismantling the Kurdish-led forces that controlled the northeast for over a decade.

The announcement comes as tensions between government forces and the SDF boiled over earlier this month, eventually resulting in a major push by government forces toward the east. The SDF appeared to have largely retreated after initial clashes on a tense front line area in eastern Aleppo province. Syria's Defense Ministry said it ordered the fighting to halt on the front lines after the agreement was announced. The SDF did not confirm the agreement, nor immediately respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press.

Residents topple a statue of a female Kurdish fighter after the takeover of the town by Syrian government forces from US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), in Tabqa, eastern Syria | AP

Syria's new leaders, since toppling Bashar Assad in December 2024, have struggled to assert their full authority over the war-torn country. An agreement was reached in March that would merge the SDF with Damascus, but it didn't gain traction as both sides accused each other of violating the deal. Since the push, the government has largely asserted control of the Deir el-Zour and Raqqa provinces, critical areas under the SDF that include oil and gas fields, river dams along the Euphrates, and border crossings.

Syria's state-run news agency SANA showed President Ahmad al-Sharaa signing and holding the agreement. SDF leader Mazloum Abdi, who was scheduled to meet with the president in Damascus was not seen, though his signature appeared on the document.

Al-Sharaa told journalists that Abdi could not travel due to bad weather and will visit Damascus on Monday after reaching the agreement over the phone.

"It's a victory for all Syrians of all backgrounds," al-Sharaa told journalists in Damascus after signing the agreement. "Hopefully Syria will end its state of division and moves to a state of unity and progress."

The two warring sides are key allies of Washington. U.S. Envoy Tom Barrack met with al-Sharaa earlier Sunday as government forces were sweeping into the city of Raqqa and across Deir el-Zour province. Abdi reportedly joined the meeting over the phone. *AP*

STREETS TURN SWIMMING POOLS

A youth dives into floodwaters after heavy rain left residential areas partially submerged in Jakarta | AP

Fire in Karachi shopping mall kills six, rescue operation on

KARACHI

SIX people, including a firefighter, were killed, and several others remained trapped more than 12 hours later after a massive fire broke out at a huge shopping mall in Pakistan's Karachi, officials said on Sunday.

Sindh Inspector General of Police (IG) Javed Alam Odho told the media on site that the fire at the Gul Plaza on the city's busy MA Jinnah Road had erupted at around 10.45 pm on Saturday night.

Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah directed Karachi Commissioner Hassan Naqvi to immediately inquire into the incident, investigate the reasons behind the fire and submit a report, according to a statement.

Rescue 1122 spokesperson Hassaanul Haseeb Khan said that there had been six casualties and around 20 people rescued from the multi-storey building have been sent to a hospital. The firefighters and rescue teams were trying to put out the fire 16 hours after it started, officials said.

IG Aslam speculated that a short circuit might be the reason for the fire. "Once the cooling starts, we will start further rescue operations, but the layout of the building is very complex as it houses a basement and mezzanine floor with hundreds of shops and stores," rescue 1122's Khan said. As many as 40 snorkels were being used and 60 per cent of the fire had been put out, he said, adding that the fire caused cracks in the mall's walls. Gul Plaza, built in the early 1980s, was a popular shopping hub for all classes, offering hundreds of stores selling affordable household goods, clothing, cosmetics and electronics. *AP*

Drone strikes cut power to 2L homes in Russia-held parts

KYIV

HUNDREDS of thousands in Russian-occupied parts of southern Ukraine were left without power on Sunday, according to Kremlin-installed authorities there. Meanwhile, Moscow has kept up its hammering of Ukraine's energy grid in overnight attacks that killed at least two people, according to Ukrainian officials.

More than 2,00,000 households in the Russian-held part of Ukraine's southern Zaporizhzhia region had no electricity on Sunday, according to the Kremlin-installed local governor. In a Telegram post, Yevgeny Balitsky said nearly 400 settlements have had their supply cut, due to damage to power networks from Ukrainian drone strikes.

Russia has hammered Ukraine's power grid, especially in winter, throughout the almost four-year war. It aims to weaken Ukrainians' will to resist in a strategy that Kyiv officials call 'weaponising winter'. Russia targeted energy infrastructure in Odesa region overnight on Sunday, according to Ukraine's Emergency Service. A fire broke out and was promptly extinguished.

At least six people were injured in the Dnipropetrovsk region because of Russian attacks, the emergency service said. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a Telegram post that repairing the country's energy system remains challenging, "but we are doing everything we can to restore everything as quickly as possible." He said two people were killed in overnight attacks across the country that struck Sumy, Kharkiv, Dnipro Zaporizhzhia, Khmelnytskyi and Odesa.

In total over 1,300 attack drones, 1,050 guided aerial bombs and 29 missiles of various types were used by Russia to strike Ukraine this week, he added. In Russia's Caucasus mountains, two children and an adult were wounded overnight as debris from a Ukrainian drone fell on a five-storey residential building in North Ossetia, according to the regional governor. Seventy people had to be evacuated from the building, in the town of Beslan, Governor Sergei Menyaylo said in a Telegram post on Sunday. *AP*

Pedestrians walk past running power generators in the centre of Kyiv during heavy frost | AFP

> **If Russia deliberately delays the diplomatic process, the world's response should be decisive: more help for Ukraine and more pressure on the aggressor**
>
> Volodymyr Zelenskyy

Israeli fire near Gaza ceasefire line kills dozens, Palestinians live in fear

CAIRO

A dividing line, at times invisible, can mean life or death for Palestinians in Gaza. Those sheltering near the territory's "yellow line" that the Israeli military withdrew to as part of the October ceasefire say they live in fear as Israeli soldiers direct near-daily fire at anyone who crosses or even lingers near it.

Of the 447 Palestinians killed between the ceasefire taking effect and Tuesday, at least 77 were killed by Israeli gunfire near the line, including 62 who crossed it, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Among them were teenagers and young children, The Associated Press found. And although the military has placed some yellow barrels and concrete barriers delineating the limits of the Palestinian zone, the line is still unmarked in certain places and in others was laid nearly half a kilometer (0.3 miles) deeper than what was agreed to in the ceasefire deal, expanding the part of Gaza that Israel controls, according to Palestinians and mapping experts.

Displaced Palestinians live amongst the rubble and debris of homes and businesses destroyed by the Israeli military in over two years of military strikes on the Gaza Strip enclave, in Jabalia refugee camp, in the northern Gaza Strip | AFP

"We stay away from the barrels. No one dares to get close" said Gaza City resident Ahmed Abu Jahal, noting that the markers are less than 100 meters (110 yards) from his house — instead of the roughly 500 meters (546 yards) outlined in a map put out by the Israeli military. *AP*

EXPRESS READ

European Union, Mercosur bloc sign landmark free trade agreement

ASUNCION: The EU and the Mercosur bloc of South American countries formally signed a long-sought free trade agreement on Saturday, strengthening commercial ties in the face of rising protectionism and trade tensions around the world. The signing ceremony in Paraguay's capital, Asuncion, caps more than a quarter-century of torturous negotiations. It marks a major geopolitical victory for the EU in an age of American tariffs and surging Chinese exports, expanding the bloc's foothold in a resource-rich region increasingly contested by the US and China

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

LIC HFL

1st Floor, Jeevan Managal Building, Hayes Road, Bengaluru -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Office of the M/S, LIC Housing Finance Limited the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 9 of security Interest(enforcement) Rule 2002 issued demand notice on below mentioned date calling upon the borrower/guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act with rule 9 of the said rules on below mentioned date.

The Borrower and the public in general are here by cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with property will be subject to the charge of M/s. LIC Housing Finance Limited for an amount notice mentioned below and interest thereon,

The Borrower attention is invited to provisions of section 13(8) of the said ACT, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower, Loan No & Possession Taken Date	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount	Description of the Property
MR. P R GAVIKUMAR Loan A/c No. 412000004100 Symbolic Possession Date: 16/01/2026	10/07/2025	Rs. 4554961	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Kaneshumuri No.1/40-12-13, Municipal /Site No. 12/7, New BBMP Municipal No.14, PID No. 12-24-14, Situated at Jarakabande Kaval Village, Yelehanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now known as 1st Cross Road, Saraswathipuram, Bangalore, measuring East to West 45 Ft. North to South20+12/2 ft.in all measuring 720 Sq.ft. With RCC building thereon and bounded on : East by : Site No. 5 & 6, West by : Road, North by : Private Property, South by : Road.
MR. NARENDRA ESWARAPPA ANANDRAJ Loan A/c No. 4002040000814 Physical Possession Date :16/01/2026	08/07/2025	Rs. 757966.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All the piece and parcel of the Site No.26 formed in the above said Survey No.25/5G & 26/1G (1.19 Acres) duly converted Vide Order No.ALN/(ST)/SR/75/2009-10 dated 02-02-2010 out of 1 Acre 37 Guntas converted from Agriculture to Non-Agricultural Residential purpose, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, PID No: 150200300700828236 measuring East to West: 30 Feet and North to South: 20 Feet in all total 600 Sq. Feet, situated at Chunchanakuppe Village, Tavarakere Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, and bounde don the: East by: Road, West by: Site NO.47, North by: Road, South by: Site NO.25.
MR. MORGERI RAJENDRA Loan A/c No. 4001030000983 Symbolic Possession Date : 16/01/2026	21/05/2025	Rs. 3102623.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of Vacant site bearing No:74, converted Survey No:23/1 of Kadabagere Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, for and conversion of 4 Acres 33 guntas land for Non-Agricultural residential purposes by Tahasildar Bangalore Vide Order No. LNSR(N)156-2004-05,- dtd: 28/03/2005 on report given and Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Vide Order No: 239/04-05, dated 28/03/2005, then divided as per plan converted land measuring East to West::30 feet and North to South: 43 feet, in all measuring 1290 sq ft and bounded on: East by: Property No:73, West by: Property No:75, North by: Property Nos:81& 80, South by: Road.
MR. E SATEESHA MS. ASHA K L Loan A/c No. 410100013376 Symbolic Possession Date : 16/01/2026	09/10/2025	Rs. 5710310.00	SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Converted Property Bearing Sy No.136/3, measuring 6 Guntas, out of total Measuring 0.32 Guntas, vide conversion order dated 03.01.2014, vide order No.ALN (A) (A): SR: 142/2013-14, order issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore and converted Property Bearing Sy.No.135, Measuring 1 Gunta, out of total Measuring 1 Acre 13 Guntas, vide conversion order dated 28.11.1992, vide order No.B.DIS. ALN SR(A) 35/1992-93,order issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, in all Measuring 0-07 Guntas, having common boundaries, Presently CMC Habbagodi Katha No.8415/136/3A, Situated at Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, Presently within the jurisdiction of CMC Hebbagodi, and bounded on : East by : Sy. No. 137, West by : Sy. No. 136/1, North by : Sy.No 135 and Road South by : Remaining portion of Sy. No.136/3 SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : The property conveyed under this deed is 184 sq. ft of undivided right and interest in the schedule 'A' property mentioned above. SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY : The Apartment bearing No.202 on the Second floor, 2BHK Flatin the said Project known as "PHOENIX"CONSTRUCTED ON Schedule 'A' Property, measuring super built up area of 918 sq.ft consisting of two bedrooms and a kitchen, inclusive of proportionate share of common areas along with One Car Parking Space. The Apartment comprises of RCC Structure with Vitrified/Ceramic Tiles flooring, and bounded on : East by : Flat no 201, West by : Flat no 203 North by : Open to Sky, South by : Open to Sky.
MR. SAMPATH U Loan A/c No. 411500007194 411500007784 Symbolic Possession Date : 16/01/2026	21/10/2025	Rs. 10948313.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All the piece and parcel of the Site No.419 Janjar No.25, measuring 74 X 32 feet paiki East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 32 Feet, in all total 1280 Sq. Feet, situated at Naganayakanahalli Village, Marasuru Dhakale, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on the: East by: Road, West by: House of Muniyappa, North by: House of Nagaraju South by: Road.
MS SUBASHINI CHANDRASEKHAR MR THIRUMALAI SRINIVASAN RENGAN IYENGAR Loan A/c No. 412100001383 Symbolic Possession Date : 16/01/2026	22/01/2025	Rs. 6300893.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. 77, Katha No. 509, BBMP Katha No.518/509/77, Situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently comes under Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike measuring East to West:-40-0 feet, North to South :-30-0 feet, In all measuring 1200 Square Feet, and bounded on: East by: Property belongs to Sarojamma, West by: Property belongs to Maddurama North by: 20 feet Road, South by: Private Property.
MS. P JEYANTHI MR. V VENUGOPAL Loan A/c No. 411500006253 411500006318 Symbolic Possession date :16/01/2026	08/12/2023	Rs. 4654693.00	SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.684, formed in Sy.No.40, 41 & 42, Situated at Singasandra Village, Channakeshava Nagara, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South taluk, Presently comes under BBMP Limits, measuring East to West : 40 Feet, North to South : 30 Feet in all measuring 1200 Sq.ft. and bounded on:- East By : Road, West By : Site No.685, North By : Private Property, South By :Site No.683 Along 10 Squares of AC Sheet roofed house built in thereon, constructed with cement and bricks, the doors and windows are made out with jungle wood, Red oxide flooring with all civic amenities like water, electricity and sanitary facilities.
MR. ADARSH B M MS. ANUSHA B V Loan A/c No.410100010820 Symbolic Possession Date :16/01/2026	25/03/2025	Rs. 9546122.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : (Description of entire Property) : All that piece and parcel Residential Converted vacant site bearing No.07, Old Khata No.193, present Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike New Municipal No.730/5253/254/11/7, formed out of the Residentially converted Survey No.11, situated at Singasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, 192 Ward of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, measuring East to West:91.8 feet and North to South: 103 feet in all totally measuring 9455.4 Sq. Feet together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface, and bounded on the: East by: Private Property, West by: 30 Feet Road, North by: Private Property, South by: Krishnappa's Property SCHEDULE "B" (Description of undivided share agreed to be conveyed) An undivided 270 Sq.Feet share in the land : comprised in the Schedule "A" Property. SCHEDULE "C" : All the piece and parcel of the Flat bearing No.301, in Third Floor, in the residential apartment known as "NEHA SADAN", to be constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property, consisting of living, dining and Three Bedroom, having Super Built Up Area of 1400 Sq.feet equipped with flooring, sanitary, electrical wiring and other facilities with a car parking space in the stilt floor.
MR. SOMASHEKAR MS. LAKKENAHALLI VENKATESHAPPA YASHODHA Loan A/c No. 412200004547 Symbolic Possession Date :16/01/2026	28/08/2025	Rs. 4334560.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the residential immovable property bearing Northern Portion of Site No.23, Old Jigani Purasabhe Katha No.4343/33/23, New Jigani Purasabhe Katha No.4343/33/231/1, In converted Sy. No. 33/3, (duly converted for Non-Agricultural Residential Purpose vide Order No.47361, Dated 07.12.2019), situated at Jigani Town, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, now comes under the limits of Jigani Ward No.18, Kuntlureddy Layout, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 40' Feet and North to South: 20' Feet, in all measuring 800 Square Feet out of measuring East to West : 40' Feet and North to South : 30' Feet, in all measuring 1200 Square Feet and bounded as : East by: Road, West by: Government Land (Bus Depot) North by: Site No. 24, South by: Remaining Southern Portion of Site No.23.
MR. DEVENDRA PRATAP SINGH Loan A/cNo. 410100009647 Physical Possession Date :16/01/2026	04/07/2025	Rs. 1103601.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Vacant property bearing Site No.161, Khata Sl. No. 295, measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 30 Feet totally measuring 1200 sq. ft., carved out of Property No.83/5, situated at Begihalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on the: East by: Road, West By: Site No.164,North by: Site No.160,South by: Site NO.162.
MR. RAMALINGA REDDY NARENDRA PATHUR Loan A/c No. 410100008050 Physical Possession Date:16/01/2026	13/03/2025	Rs. 1368924.00	SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : Item No.1: All the pieces and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No.103/1, measuring 02 Acres land and 01 Guntas of Kharab, which is duly converted for residential purpose by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore vide Official Memorandum vide No.ALN (A&K) SR/76/2013-14, dated 26.09.2013, Situated at Soppahalli Village, Kasba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on the :- East by: Halla and Land in Sy. No. 36, West by: Land in Sy. No.102, North by: Land in Sy. No.36, South by: Land in Sy. No. 97. Item No.2: All the pieces and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No.97, measuring 04 Acres 31 Guntas and 09 Guntas Kharab, which is duly converted for residential purpose by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore vide Official Memorandum vide No.ALN (A&K) SR/76/2013-14, dated 26.09.2013, Situated at Soppahalli Village, Kasba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on the :- East by: Land in Sy. No.103, West by: Land in Sy. No. 95, North by: Land in Sy. No.102 and 103, South by: Sidi Hosakote Boundary Item No.3: All the pieces and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No.96 measuring 05 Acres 01 Guntas which is duly converted for residential purpose by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore vide Official Memorandum vide No.ALN (A&K) SR/85/2013-14, dated 05.10.2013, Situated at Soppahalli Village, Kasba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on the :- East by: Land in Sy. No. 97, West by: Surajakkanahalli boundary, North by: Land in Re-Sy. No.95, South by: Sidi Hosakote Boundary. Item No.4: :All the pieces and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No.95/1 measuring 04 Acres 07 Guntas which is duly converted for residential purpose by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore vide Official Memorandum vide No.ALN (A&K) SR/76/2013-14, dated 26.09.2013, Situated at Soppahalli Village, Kasba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District and bounded on the :- East by: Land in Sy. No. 95/2 and 102, West by: Surajakkanahalli boundary, North by: Land in Sy. No.94,South by: Land in Sy.No.95/2 and 96. All the four Items totally measuring 15 Acres 39 Guntas and the layout Plan approved by the Anekal Planning Authority vide No.APA/LAO/128/2013-2014 dated 12.06.2014 and layout known as 'ORBIS BVS AVENUES'.SCHEDULE B PROPERTY : (SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS DEED) : All that piece and parcel of the residential Site No.139, Khata No.2388/139, Byagadadenahalli Gram Panchayath E-Khatha No.150200101300420951 in the layout known as 'ORBIS BVS AVENUES' as per the plan approved by the Anekal Planning Authority vide No.APA/LAO/128/2013-2014 dated 12.06.2014 carved out of Schedule A Properties situated at at Soppahalli Village, Kasba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, measuring East to West: 12.19 Mtrs., and North to South: 9.14 Mtrs., having total area of 111.416 sq. Mtrs., and bounded on :East by: Site No.134,West by: Road, North by: Site No.140, South by: Site No.138.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 19.01.2026

Sd/- Authorized Officer
LIC Housing Finance Limited

24% rise in automobile exports from India in 2025 driven by robust demand for cars, two-wheelers and CVs in the overseas markets, as per SIAM data

Old tax regime still works for high earners

Those with annual salary of more than ₹25 lakh and deductions of ₹8.5 lakh should stick to old regime

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

AS taxpayers it is natural to expect some positive tweaks to the direct tax regime in the Budget. That, however, appears unlikely this year, given massive hike in income tax exemptions in the last Budget, along with the much-delayed correction in GST rates.

This column is not about tax cuts in the February 1 Budget, but which tax regime to choose in the next fiscal. While the old regime offers a slew of deductions, new regime offers none. New regime is the default option and, once chosen, becomes irreversible in certain cases.

Though the new regime has made slabs more attractive and compliance simpler by removing exemptions and deductions, why do nearly a third of taxpayers still opt for the old regime? The answer is simple: Taxpayers should choose the framework that results in a lower tax liability. If you are a salaried persion with an annual income of ₹25 lakh and have deductions and exemptions of ₹8.5 lakh—through home and education loans, HRA, and Section 80C and 80D deductions—you should stick to the old regime. Despite the burden of paperwork, old regime delivers higher savings in such cases, while the new regime benefits those with lower incomes

The government's claim of making tax filing simpler each year has not yet made any material difference for this segment, as they continue to find greater tax savings under the old framework.

Experts say the break-even point—the level of deductions at which tax liability under

both regimes becomes equal—rises sharply with income. For a gross salary of ₹24.75 lakh, the break-even point is roughly ₹8.5 lakh. Beyond this, the old regime delivers tangible savings. However, at lower income levels, the new regime is more attractive, especially since annual income up to ₹12 lakh attracts no tax liability.

Put differently, the biggest advantage of the old regime lies in deductions, while the biggest drawback of the new regime is removal of all of them—HRA, Sections 80C and 80D, and interest on home and education loans under Section 24. For taxpayers who use these provisions, the old regime still results in a lower tax outgo.

Among all deductions, education loan interest under Section 80E is a strong incentive to stay with the old regime. Unlike most other deductions, there is no cap on interest that can be claimed. This stands in contrast to home loan interest, which is capped at ₹2 lakh. Under Section 80E, the entire interest paid on a education loan taken for self, spouse, or children can be claimed for eight years starting from the year repayment begins. This makes it valuable for high-ticket professional or overseas education loans, where interest outgo is substantial and long-term. Similarly, there is no cap on HRA deductions, allowing those paying high rents to reduce their tax liability. Beyond these, the old regime allows deductions for savings and protection-oriented insurance products.

To simplify, if you earn about ₹25 lakh and your deductions and exemptions exceed ₹8.5 lakh, the old regime is more beneficial. If you earn over ₹30 lakh, the old regime works better if total deductions exceed ₹3.75 lakh. If deductions are below ₹3.75 lakh, the new regime is the better option. In conclusion, the choice of tax regime should be based on a clear calculation of total income and available deductions.

IN CONVERSATION

PALASH SRIVASTAVA
Managing director of India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited

'Budget can boost local body funding, infra financing from govt'

DESPITE the government's push on infrastructure financing, private participation has remained muted. In an interaction with **Pushpita Dey**, **Palash Srivastava**, managing director of India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL), talks about expectations from Budget 2026, the ₹17 lakh crore public-private partnership (PPP) project pipeline, and the constraints holding back private investment. **Excerpts**:

What are your expectations from Budget 2026 in terms of infra financing?

Budget 2026 is expected to focus on widening the financing universe and strengthening execution-oriented mechanisms. One key expectation is the expansion of harmonised list of infrastructure to include emerging sectors such as space and aerospace infrastructure, aircraft, and select biofuel segments. This would improve access to long-term capital for these sectors.

There is also an expectation that measures announced earlier such as the Urban Challenge Fund, the Maritime Development Fund, and initiatives related to critical minerals will be operationalised, along with incentives to crowd in private investment. Urban infrastructure financing is another priority area. The Budget could facilitate greater resource mobilisation by urban local bodies and improve funding flows into infrastructure. There is an expectation that states will be provided greater fiscal and financing flexibility.

Finance ministry has announced plans for ₹17 lakh cr worth of PPP infra projects. Which sectors and regions are likely to be prioritised?

As per the data released by the Department of Economic Affairs, transport and logistics dominate the ₹17 lakh crore PPP pipeline, both in terms of project numbers and value across all three years. This signals a continued policy focus on mobility, connectivity, and supply-chain efficiency.

Renewable energy follows closely, along with water and sanitation, reflecting the government's emphasis on essential and climate-aligned infrastructure. While roads and power remain core sectors, current pipeline shows greater diversification, with increased representation from ports, shipping, inland waterways, and airports.

One key expectation is expansion of harmonised list of infra to include emerging sectors like space and aerospace infra, aircraft and select biofuel segments. This will improve access to long-term capital for these sectors

There is early traction in electric mobility and bio-energy. Regionally, the projects identified jointly with central ministries and state governments are aligned with national priorities. Andhra Pradesh features renewable energy and power projects, along with roads and ports. Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh also have strong and diversified project presence.

Why has private investment in infra not picked up?

Private participation in Indian infrastructure is quite mature, and India remains one of the most experienced PPP markets globally. However, the composition of infrastructure financing has shifted over the years, which partly explains why private investment has not grown at the same pace as overall infrastructure spending.

Many delivery models such as the Hybrid Annuity Model, involve a significant upfront public-sector contribution, with the government funding around 40% of project costs—and even higher in some sectors. As a result, while overall infrastructure funding has expanded rapidly over the last decade, the relative share of private capital has not increased proportionately.

Where do you see the biggest bottlenecks—land, regulatory clearances, credit availability, or risk perception?

The most significant bottleneck today is risk perception. Infrastructure investment decisions are heavily influenced by past experiences. Even when actual bottlenecks may no longer exist, the perception of execution risk—arising from earlier delays in land acquisition, prolonged approvals, or slow dispute resolution—continues to deter private capital.

MONEYWISE

HOW A 23-YEAR-OLD SHOULD INVEST

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

THIS is the age when a person starts earning and wonders how to invest. Hence the age 23.

Build a strong financial foundation: Start by educating yourself on personal finance. Read books on personal finance, investor behaviour and books like 'Random walk on Wall Street' if you are going to invest in direct equities. Also, involve your parents teach them about equity so that they don't ask you to withdraw all the money in a down market.

Also, follow resources from SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) and keep looking for good YouTube videos courses on investing.

Track your income and expenses using a simple budgeting app or Excel. Aim to live below your means—save at least 20-30% of your income right from your first salary.

Create an emergency fund: Save 3-6 months' worth of living expenses in a liquid, low-risk account. Use a savings account or liquid mutual funds for easy access. This acts as a safety net for unexpected events like job loss or medical emergencies.

Pay off high-interest debt: If you have education loans, credit card debt, or personal loans, prioritise paying them off. In India, student loans often have lower interest (8-10%), but credit cards can charge 36-40% annually—tackle those first to avoid wealth erosion.

Start investing early: Leverage the power of compounding. Begin with systematic investment plans (SIPs) in MFs —aim for equity funds if you have a high-risk tolerance. If you are well trained in finance, you can even look at direct equity.

Contribute to tax-saving instruments under Section 80C: EPF (Employee Provident Fund) if salaried, PPF (Public Provident Fund) for safe returns (about 7% as of 2026), or ELSS (Equity Linked Savings Schemes) for stock market exposure with tax benefits up to ₹1.5 lakh.

Diversify: Allocate 60-70% to equities (stocks/MFs), 20-30% to debt (fixed deposits, bonds), and a small portion to gold via ETF. From a taxation point of view it may make sense to invest in multi-asset funds.

Increase earning potential: Pursue certifications or side hustles relevant to your field (e.g. coding bootcamps if in IT, or freelance writing). Aim to increase your income by 10-20% annually through promotions or job switches.

Consider gig economy platforms for looking for part-time work and work hard on that.

Protect your assets: Get health insurance early (e.g. via government schemes like Ayushman Bharat or private plans) to avoid out-of-pocket expenses. Term life insurance is crucial if you have dependents—opt for pure term plans with coverage 10-15 times your annual income. Review and adjust your portfolio annually but avoid frequent trading to minimise taxes (long-term capital gains tax is 12.5% on equities held over a year as of 2026).

Adopt long-term mindset: Avoid get-rich-quick schemes, speculative crypto trading, or unnecessary lifestyle inflation.

Set goals: Use the 50/30/20 rule (50% needs, 30% wants, 20% savings/investments) and track progress quarterly.

MONEYMATTERS

HOW TO DEAL WITH FINANCIAL INSECURITIES

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneymnute.in)

IN the first month of the year, there is a flurry of big-picture reports and surveys from global institutions. The World Economic Forum takes place annually in Davos, Switzerland, in January, where global leaders from across the world converge to discuss ideas about the future. Ahead of the forum, the global body conducted a survey of over 4,000 people across 144 countries as part of the WEF Youth Pulse 2026 report. The biggest cause of stress or anxiety among 57% of the youth worldwide is 'financial insecurity'. They consider inflation and instability as the greatest threats to their lives. Over 70% of young workers today are in informal, insecure, or low-wage employment.

There are two sides to the story. One is about the income, and the other is about the expenditure.

Income side of the story

In India, a significant number of people have been informal agriculture workers for decades. In urban India, informal work is a relatively new phenomenon. Over the years, people usually migrated from villages because there were better job opportunities in the public and private sectors. Government jobs provided a job guarantee that no other business could promise with life-long pensions. However, with a surging population, the government alone cannot provide or promise jobs for everyone. Presently, businesses are not significantly in an expansion mode. The advent of artificial intelligence and new technologies means businesses must hire only high-skilled workers. Routine skills are automated more rapidly than you can imagine. That is leading young urban people to take on additional work in the gig economy. The aftermath of all that means you are taking on more responsibilities and increasing the pressure on yourselves to simply provide for your own needs and wants, as well as for your families.

When asked what matters most for their future, young respondents emphasised a sense of purpose (61%) and balance (50%) above traditional benefits such as medical coverage or retirement savings. The previous generations chose stability.

The only way you can face the insecurity is to directly confront the fear of uncertainty. The path to that is through knowledge. There is never an age to learn a new skill. In technology, you may want to dive deeper to ensure that you are not managing tasks that can be easily automated. If you are worried about inflation, you should take the new gig only to fund your future self.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

Expenditure side of the story

Warren Buffett, the legendary American investor, often talks about building a " moat " around your wealth. It means you must build a wall of money that protects your actual wealth from exigencies such as health issues, accidents, or income loss. It is easier said than done, though. It requires you to first allocate money to your future needs and then spend today. For this purpose, you have to strike a balance between saving, investing, and spending. Considering the younger generation's need for purpose, this is proving to be a challenge. No amount of income is adequate if you wish to pursue your happiness and purpose by spending money.

With your virtual life dominating your real life, you crave new physical experiences. Your work, travel, reading, and entertainment habits have changed. You are willing to pay much more for aligning with the purpose behind your actions. It may be a good idea to learn how to balance your life goals. Financial knowledge will help you achieve that incrementally. As you learn something new, you may also want to take professional help to support your actions. If you are starting now, balancing your monthly income and expenditure is paramount. With income growth facing challenges, pinching the expenditure side more is the way forward for your future self.

Govt may ease SEZ provisions in Budget

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

THE Ministry of Commerce is pushing to introduce provisions in Budget 2026 aimed at reviving Special Economic Zones (SEZs), amid a steady decline in the number of operational units, as per an official familiar with the matter. The proposed measures are likely to complement the broader overhaul of Customs duties, which finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said will be one of the key focus areas of the upcoming Budget.

"We are trying to introduce some additional provisions for SEZs to revive them," the official said, requesting anonymity. The push comes as SEZs continue to grapple with structural challenges, even as overall exports from these enclaves have risen over the past few years.

Recent data tabled in the Lok Sabha shows 466 units across seven major SEZs shut operations between FY21 and FY25. Closures peaked in FY22, largely due to the pandemic, and again in FY25, underscoring persistent stress in the sector. The shutdowns affected jobs despite rise in investment and export value from units. Employment in SEZs fell to 31.77 lakh in FY25 from 31.94 lakh in the previous year.

Industry representatives flag regulatory hurdles

Industry representatives have flagged regulatory hurdles that are constraining competitiveness of SEZs. These include demand for exemptions from quality control orders, import price norms, and port-related restrictions, which they argue raise costs and slow imports of inputs

Industry representatives have flagged regulatory hurdles that are constraining competitiveness. These include demand for exemptions from quality control orders (QCOs), minimum import price norms, and port-related restrictions, which they argue raise costs and slow imports of inputs. SEZ developers and units have sought changes to policies governing Free Trade Warehousing Zones, including permission to import vehicles, flexibility for domestic sales, and allowing reverse job work to help utilise idle capacities.

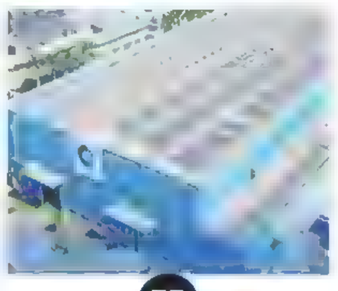
A NITI Aayog report prepared by a committee chaired by former cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba flagged similar concerns, calling for an overhaul of SEZs and the policies governing them. The report noted outdated SEZ rules have limited their integration with the domestic economy, preventing them from fully participating in broader manufacturing value chains.

CG Power wins ₹900 crore order from US co Tallgrass for data centre project

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

ENGINEERING conglomerate CG Power and Industrial Solutions, a subsidiary under the Murugappa Group, has secured an order valued at ₹900 crore ($99.2M) from the US-based Tallgrass Integrated Logistics Solutions, for a large-scale data centre project in the US, the company said in a statement.

This marks the company's entry into the global data centre space. Under the rule, the seller is responsible for delivering the goods alongside the buyer's nominated vessel at the Port of Mumbai and clearing them for export. This is the single-largest order ever won by the Mumbai-based company and is a direct export order for the supply of power transformers. CG Power will supply power transformers, specifically engineered to meet stringent reliability, efficiency and uptime needs of hyperscale data centre applications. This order will be executed over a delivery period of 12 to 20 months.



This order from Tallgrass is a strategic platform win for CG and marks our entry into growing global data centre vertical

Amar Kaul, global CEO & MD, CG Power

Amar Kaul, global CEO & MD, CG Power, said, "This order from Tallgrass is a strategic platform win for CG and marks our entry into growing global data centre vertical. It validates our capability to deliver globally benchmarked, mission-critical technology solutions from India, and reinforces our position as a trusted global partner in applications where reliability and performance are non-negotiable. The global shift toward cloud computing, AI, and digital infrastructure is fundamentally reshaping power demand. We believe this opens up a major long-term opportunity pipeline in global data centre projects, aligned with our global growth and margin-accretive expansion strategy."

AIFF releases tender terms for ISL media rights

Almost two weeks after the announcement of the Indian Super League's (ISL's) Feb 14 kick-off date, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has released tender terms to acquire a broadcaster for the 2025/26 ISL season. Companies atleast worth ₹10 crore with experience of broadcasting professional leagues for a minimum of two full seasons are eligible. The last date is February 1. Full story: newindianexpress.com

India Open mess reflection on poor upkeep & lack of maintenance

OUT of all acronyms from an Indian perspective, one, AQI (Air Quality Index), has received a lot of airtime in recent years. Not without reason. Over the last few years, Delhi, the whole northern part of the country actually, sees their AQI levels shoot up. Delhi has been shrouded in a blanket of toxic haze all through the winter and the same issue came to haunt the India Open badminton event, a 750 level meet. But the malaise ran deeper in this particular competition. It reflects poorly on our understanding of basic hygiene.

Pollution, games halted due to bird droppings inside the stadium, a monkey inadvertently wandering across the stands... it has led to curt statements from players about playing conditions. Inescapable but avoidable storylines. Sunday was the only day when the game was not halted due to 'unwanted debris' from the IG Stadium roof. It is a brutal reminder of similar hygiene and infrastructure issues during the 2010 Commonwealth Games

To put things into perspective, the India Open is one of the most prestigious badminton events the country has been hosting since 2008. It started as a Grand Prix Gold event before being elevated to a Superseries BWF World Tour in 2011. To understand the enormity of the event, one just needs to see the figures of participation — 250 players from 23 countries including all top players. What complicates matters is that the venue would be hosting the World Championships in August. Organisers, the Badminton Association of India (BAI), tried to downplay the issue on the first day when Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark said that she hoped it was going to be better than the other hall (KD Jadhav Hall). "I think it's still very dirty and really unhealthy conditions for all the players," she had said on Tuesday. Another Denmark player, World No 3 Anders Antonsen said he had pulled out of the tournament because of pollution. There has been quite a bit of clamour to shift India Open out of Delhi because of pollution but the problem runs beyond shifting.

INDIRA GANDHI STADIUM COMPLEX

104 acres — Area of entire sporting complex

`4.94 crore — Annual revenue generated through pay and play scheme (as per SAI report)

FACILITIES ● Gymnastic Hall wooden floor (fully AC) with 15000 fixed seats ● Wrestling Hall (fully AC) with 5000 fixed seats ● Cycling Velodrome (fully AC) with 3000 fixed seats ● Available sports facilities: Badminton, basketball, boxing, cricket, cycling, gymnastic, judo, TT, speak takraw, wushu, & Fitness Centre ● 150-bedded sports hostel

The BAI has been putting up a brave face but we must also understand that the maintenance of the stadium is with the Sports Authority of India. It is SAI that takes care of five sports complexes in the Capital. The JN Stadium, IG Stadium complex, the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium (hockey), Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Swimming Pool Complex and the Karni Singh Shooting Ranges. And they have an annual budget for each of the complexes for maintenance. There is a specific budget for each venue and runs into more than ₹100 crore per year for the five complexes.

Under utilisation a big issue

After conversing with quite a few former SAI top officials, it can safely be said that the problem is endemic and something that the SAI cannot wash their hands off. Yes, a sports body cannot control pollution or the AQI levels but when it comes to playing conditions and basic hygiene, officials cannot hide behind a garb of excuses.

One major drawback of each of the complexes in Delhi is lack of maintenance. The IG stadium is not an exception either and it is not a fallacy that a locked stadium cannot be maintained. The BAI got the stadium weeks before the India Open for overlays. Getting a stadium that is locked most part of the year is not easy to be fixed within weeks. According to SAI's Annual Report 2023-24, the stadium held only seven national camps. There were 30 sports bookings and 43 non-sport bookings. The numbers indicate that it is grossly under-utilized.

SAI sources did admit that presence of pigeons in the high altars of stadium premises is a real issue. But their reason seems baffling: "With large openings (air vents, ducts and shafts) in the stadium, it's a challenge to completely block entry of pigeons. Efforts are being made to block the vents and deploy nets, wherever possible." So the officials were in the know of things and still allowed the meet to go ahead. For a country that is hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2030 and is keen to host the Olympics in 2036, such organisational issues are not acceptable by any means.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

More questions for hosts after another historic loss

After Test win in 2024, NZ clinch ODI series for the first time in India

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Chennai

Centurion Virat Kohli walks back after getting out in Indore on Sunday | AFP

AN ODI series such as the one between India and New Zealand runs the risk of being lost to some of the sport's usual elements. With the 50-over World Cup 20 months away in a different continent where conditions are expected to be very different, you cannot gleam much from matches played in India. What has happened in January 2026 has little meaning or context to what may happen in October 2027 in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. There's of course a qualification element to next year's World Cup but India are well placed. In essence, this whole series, then, was a bit of a box-ticking exercise with no long-term jeopardy associated to it but more on that anon.

But it's safe to say the last week or so has been a timely wake-up call for the Indian leadership group and support staff. Forget the fact that they have lost an ODI series at home for the first time in three years (Australia in March 2023 if you are wondering), there seems to be a lack of clarity and messaging between the team and the support staff. The positives, first. Virat Kohli was utterly magisterial for the majority of the series and his 124 in the third ODI on Sunday further showed he retains everything that made him a world-beater in this format over a decade ago. Harshit Rana has further entrenched himself within the set-up after another eye-catching displays, both with bat and ball. Outside of those two players, though, it's hard to look for positives. With Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya the only notable absentees with the upcoming T20 World Cup in mind, the management can't even hide behind the garb of fielding players keeping in mind the long-term, a claim Black Caps can make as their contingent was filled with inexperience wherever you look.

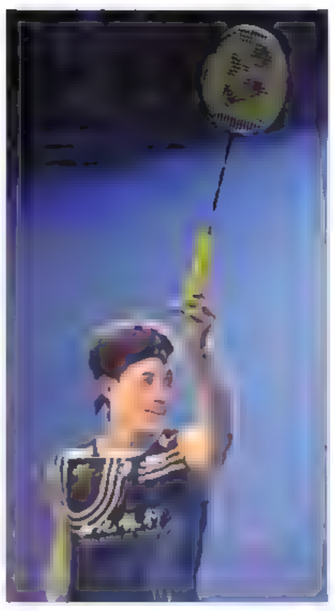
The hosts did have a couple of inexperienced players but they haven't handled them properly over the last few months, a theme that's continued in this series. Take the example of Nitish Reddy. This is India's big project player across formats and conditions. He certainly has the tools to bat in the top six and be a regular seam-bowling all-rounder. But having identified him, the management hasn't utilised him properly. On Sunday, his thrill-a-minute half-century ignited some hope after all hope was seemingly lost. With the ball on a very placid surface, he bowled eight overs. With young project players, you will have to be patient. Former Arsenal manager, Arsene Wenger, had once famously remarked that you pay for the education of young players with points. Series like these are ideal testing grounds for the young players but you ought to be patient. Yashasvi Jaiswal was left on the bench, Shreyas Iyer had a middling return while Ravindra Jadeja played all three games when he's not going to be an automatic starter in 20 months time.

The point about this series not having enough riding of it is true but it still ought to sting the support staff, especially the already embattled Gautam Gambhir. Not many Indian coaches preside a Test and ODI series loss to different opponents at home in back-to-back months. Yes, he coached India to Champions Trophy win before a drawn Test series in England but this low stakes series will be fresh in the mind when the co-hosts begin the T20 World Cup title defense. Lose that and Gambhir will definitely feel the heat.

Brief scores: NZ 337/8 in 50 ovs (Daryl 137, Glenn 106) **bt** India 296 in 46 ovs (Kohli 124, Nitish 53, Rana 52; Foulkes 3/77)

Lin & win: Chun-yi captures India Open

ANMOL GURUNG @New Delhi



Lin Chun-yi in action at the India Open on Sunday | PARVEEN NEGI

IT was the usual suspect who captured the women's singles title. An Se-young, for the nth time, demonstrated that she's cut from a different cloth by capping off the India Open with the top prize in the women's category. But the men's singles had thrown a curveball after the withdrawal of World No 1 Shi Yu Qi from China. Kunlavut Vitidsarn, who captured the season-opener in Malaysia, was one of the top bets to maintain his rich run. But it was an unfamiliar face — Lin Chun-yi of Chinese Taipei — who walked away with the men's crown.

Lin was one of the unseeded players in the main draw and after some notable scalps, including one against India's Lakshya Sen in the last-eight stage, in the earlier rounds, the 26-year-old outplayed World No 4 Jonatan Christie in the summit match here on Sunday. The Indonesian Christie, who has been playing with real purpose since the birth of his son, himself was entering the finals with plenty of purpose. He had beaten some high-level rivals in the earlier rounds. All the recent records would indicate that Christie was the favourite. But as the match commenced, Christie was nowhere near his best.

There was a clear daylight between the finalists in the opening essay with Lin winning points at will before going on to take the advantage. The more-experienced Christie regrouped and made the game much more competitive in the game but the left-handed Lin, who loves gaming when he's not playing the sport, showed remarkable mental tenacity to take six consecutive points towards the death and close out the match. It was all over within 38 minutes with the score reading 21-10, 21-18 in Lin's favour. "I think I played pretty well in today's (Sunday) match. I didn't feel much pressure. I was enjoying myself. I wasn't feeling well in Malaysia (Open) as I had some injury concerns. But in India, I felt like I was playing better and happier," he said. Hailing from Fangliao (Chinese Taipei), his parents are into farming and they grow fruits. Lin, with the blessings of his parents, has been farming for wins on the BWF World Tour. His mantra is perseverance, working every new day to improve. "My parents never restricted me from playing games. They always wanted me to be a successful, kind and helpful person to society," he said. And that perseverance has paid off as this was his maiden Super 750-level title of his career. "It proves that I can stand on my own feet."

RESULTS: MS: L Chun-Yi bt J Christie 21-10, 21-18; WS: I-A Se-young bt W Zhi Yi 21-13, 21-11; WD: L Sheng/Tan bt Fukushima/Matsumoto 21-11,21-18; MD Liang/Chang bt Midorikawa/Yamashita 17-21, 25-23, 21-16; XD: Puavaranukroh/Supissara bt Christiansen/Alexandra 19-21, 25-23, 21-18

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Coach Hyun-il behind An Se-young's success

ANMOL GURUNG @Chennai

WANG Zhi Yi must be sick of facing her tormenter An Se-young. The Chinese World No 2, facing the South Korean World No 1 for the 22nd time, was simply powerless as An, the biggest draw on the final day of the India Open, put up yet another masterclass. Despite the lack of Indian representation on the concluding day, a sizeable crowd had turned up at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex. An, as she entered the court, drew the loudest cheers. It was far from a surprise as An has displayed superhuman abilities to dominate the women's circuit over the years.

Sunday was no different as Wang simply couldn't live with her opponent. Despite the loud cheers, An was laser-focussed as always and she took the match by the throat as usual. On paper, it was a battle between World No 1 and World No 2, but An, as has been the case in their recent meetings, showed there are levels in this game.

An Se-young celebrates after winning on Sunday | PARVEEN NEGI

An had built a handy gap very soon but Wang did well to fight back. But An recalibrated, before bringing her A-game to finish off the final in 43 minutes, winning 21-13, 21-11. This was the 23-year-old's third India Open title after 2023 and 2025.

For Wang, it was her 18th defeat in 22 meetings. To add to her woes, it was her ninth defeat against An at the same stage of the competition since the start of 2025. "I'm so proud. I won the game. Thank you for supporting me, I'm so happy to show them (fans) my game," An said.

The Olympic champion is aware that she's a target for everyone. "I know everyone will do their best to win against me. I also do my best not to lose."

One of the forces behind An's power is Lee Hyun-il, a former men's singles World No 1. It's clear that An has worked on the physical aspect of the game in recent months. That is one of the key factors that has helped her swat aside rivals with relative ease. Lee said that the coaches prepare plans as per her requirements. "We are doing the same training as we were doing. And we want her to be the best. She wants to play the attacking game more, she wants to be aggressive. So we are training according to that. We are doing power and weight management according to that," he said. It's clear that An chases perfection. "The match against Ratchanok Intanon (in the semis) was perfect. But she felt it was not perfect. So we are doing our best to make her close to perfect. She has been working on her movements and attacking strokes," Lee said.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Vidarbha's Atharva Taide celebrates his century in the Vijay Hazare final | PTI

Taide's ton guides Vidarbha to Vijay Hazare victory

ENS/AGENCIES

ATHARVA Taide's hundred of rare brilliance in alliance with a disciplined bowling effort powered Vidarbha to a facile 38-run win over Saurashtra and to their maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy title here on Sunday.

Once Vidarbha made a daunting 317 for eight riding on Taide's 128 (118 balls, 15x4, 3x6), the task was cut out for Saurashtra and they failed to cross the line, ending up at 279 all out in 48.5 overs. But Saurashtra fought gamely for a large part despite slipping to 30 for two early, which soon became a discomforting 112 for four in 22.4 overs. The heartbeat of Saurashtra's fight was determined fifties by Prerak Mankad (88, 92 balls) and Chirag Jani (64, 63 balls) and their 93-run fifth wicket stand. But eventually, the flickering flame was snuffed. **Brief scores:** Vidarbha 317/8 in 50 ovs (Taide 128; Panwar 4/65) **bt** Saurashtra (Mankad 88; Yash Thakur 4/50)

Wasteful Newcastle held by lowly Wolves

AGENCIES @London

Action from Wolverhampton Wanderers and Newcastle United match | AP

NEWCASTLE'S push towards the Premier League's top four was derailed by a damaging 0-0 draw against bottom of the table Wolves on Sunday.

Eddie Howe's side were unable to prise open the Wolves defence as two points slipped away at rain-lashed Molineux. Wins over Burnley, Crystal Palace and Leeds had bolstered their bid to qualify for next season's Champions League.But the Magpies are stuck in eighth place after failing to beat Wolves.

Following their disappointing 2-0 defeat against Manchester City in the League Cup semi-final first leg on Tuesday, it was another frustrating result for Newcastle. With crucial matches against top four rivals Aston Villa and Liverpool looming, Howe's men must get back on track quicky.

EXPRESS READS

Bengal Tigers bounce back to beat SG Pipers

BHUBANESWAR: Shrachi Bengal Tigers came from behind to defeat SG Pipers 3-2 and remain in fray for a top-four finish in the men's Hockey India League here on Sunday. Jugraj Singh (45th), Abhishek (45th) and Affan Yousuf (48th) scored the goals for the Tigers after Dilraj Singh (4th) and Tomas Domene (31st) had put the Pipers ahead.

Tata Steel: Gukesh holds Van Foreest

WIJK AAN ZEE: D Gukesh drew with Jorden van Foreest in the second round of the Tata Steel Round 2 at Wijk aan zee on Sunday. Arjun Erigaisi, who beat compatrior R Praggnanadhaa in the first round, held his own in a draw against Thai dan van Nguyen. Erigaisi is one of the leaders with Hans Niemann after two rounds.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

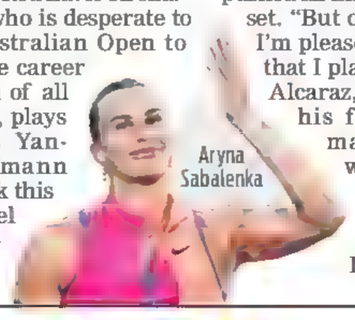
Alcaraz, Sabalenka safely through on opening day

AFP @Melbourne

CARLOS Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka launched their Australian Open title bids with straight-sets wins but there was no fairytale for 45-year-old Venus Williams on Sunday.

On a hot Melbourne day in which a ball girl fainted, last year's men's beaten finalist Alexander Zverev dropped a set before easing into the second round. Alcaraz joined him, the Spaniard beating 81st-ranked home player Adam Walton 6-3, 7-6 (2), 6-2 on Rod Laver Arena.

Alcaraz, who is desperate to win the Australian Open to complete the career Grand Slam of all four majors, plays Germany's Yannick Hanfmann next. "I think this kind of level and the difficulties in the first round is pretty good for me," said Alcaraz, who was pushed all the way in the second set. "But overall just happy. I'm pleased about the level that I played today," added Alcaraz, who was playing his first competitive match for nine weeks.



Alcaraz has won the US Open, Wimbledon and French Open, but Melbourne is the one Grand Slam missing from his impressive resume. Earlier, in steamy conditions approaching highs of 30C, Zverev threatened to implode in losing the first set to Canada's Gabriel Diallo. But the 28-year-old German recovered from the shock to win 6-7 (1), 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 and next meets Australian Alexei Popyrin or Alexandre Muller of France. Asked how he reset from his first-set wobble, the third seed said: "I was thinking it can't get worse than that. British qualifier Arthur Fery scored the first big upset by taking down 20th seed Flavio Cobolli of Italy, 7-6 (1), 6-4, 6-1. Sabalenka began her bid for a third Australian Open title in four years with a patchy start before coming good in the second set.

Monday's matches: (selected; 1st Rd) Men Novak Djokovic vs Pedro Martinez, Daniil Medvedev vs Jesper de Jong, Coco Gauff vs Kamilla Rakhimova, Yue Yuan vs Iga Swiatek.

IIM CALLING: Your 2026 Roadmap to India's Top B-Schools

CAT preparation often starts with talk of cut-offs and strategy, but what often shapes outcomes is the slower work that builds judgement, consistency, and command over pressure. Having a clearer understanding of what is actually assessed, right at the start of the year, directs the strategy well before test day.

What CAT really tests when the clock starts ticking

Nikhil Abhishek explores how CAT scores improve when you pick questions wisely, structure thoughts clearly, and absorb feedback

EVERY January, CAT aspirants begin with a sense of urgency. New books arrive, past papers are downloaded, and students dive straight into problem solving. Questions and sets pile up fast, and the rhythm scratches the itch of momentum. Mock tests appear within days, and scores begin to shape mood. But the risk with this approach is that aspirants end up preparing for the exam they think CAT is, rather than the exam it turns into once the clock starts. They work harder, yet their performance stays stubbornly inconsistent because the exam is filtering for a deeper skill than most realise, something much more fundamental.

CAT tests choices, not techniques: how well a student can judge what to attempt and what to avoid, how quickly they can recognise when they are heading in the wrong direction, and how calmly they can realign under pressure. This skill comes from reading situations accurately and responding without panic. It also includes the discipline to drop a plan midstream and restart neatly. The aim is consistency under a relentless stopwatch.

real talk

Prof Vasanth Kamath V P, Associate Dean – Academics, at T A Pai Management Institute (TAPMI), sees this pattern every year. "Many aspirants believe CAT is a test of speed or how many questions they can attempt," he says. Strong profiles begin to falter when students refuse to let go of difficult questions. "Candidates with slightly lower ability but better judgement, who identify their strengths early, skip wisely, and manage time calmly tend to do far better. This ability to make rational choices under stress is exactly what we look for in future managers," he reveals.

Understanding this changes how aspirants should approach the year. Instead of starting with speed or volume, the first step is to build behaviours that support good judgement. These behaviours develop slowly, but they influence how a student reads a passage and how they respond when a section goes off plan. Preparation becomes training to recognise patterns and stay stable under constraints.

The same skills carry into the post-CAT stages, where clarity and structure matter more than fluency. Prof Kamath draws that line sharply. "Good communication is about clarity and coherence, and not vocabulary or fluency," he says. Candidates who organise their answers and support them with a grounded example stand out. "Panels are far more impressed by a candidate who pauses, listens carefully, and responds in a clear, organised manner even if the language is simple," he explains.

According to Omar Chihane, Global General Manager, TOEFL, academic English proficiency grows through daily exposure. "Extended reading builds stamina and the ability to follow arguments. Listening to lectures or news, using captions where possible, strengthens real-time interpretation and supports writing," he says, adding that an enhanced update to the TOEFL iBT reflects this shift by measuring integrated skills linked to academic readiness and real academic engagement, in alignment with the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

One habit that compounds early is reading with summarisation. "Candidates who read editorials and then summarise them in a few lines learn to identify core arguments quickly," Prof Kamath says. Over time, they get faster at presenting a balanced view in under a minute, which directly strengthens WAT (Written Ability Test) responses and PI answers.

Another differentiator is feedback. Many take mocks and analyse errors, but progress depends on what they do next. Prof Kamath has seen students with similar work ethic diverge simply because one adjusted method while the other defended old habits. "Improvement comes from reflection and adaptability, not effort alone," he says.

With CAT 2026 roughly ten months away, there is time to train judgement early so that when the exam arrives, choices become sharper, and performance becomes more stable. That is where strong CAT attempts come from, and that is where the year ahead should begin.

Compared to academically strong candidates, those with slightly lower ability but better judgement, who identify their strengths early, skip wisely, and manage time calmly, tend to do far better — Prof Vasanth Kamath V P

SPOTLIGHT! IIM UDAIPUR
PLACEMENTS, CAMPUS LIFE, AND MORE

Placement trends

IN its most recent placement season, IIM Udaipur recorded strong outcomes across its flagship MBA and one-year specialised programmes. As per the institute's published reports, the highest domestic package for the MBA cohort touched the upper ₹40 lakh range, while the average was in the high-teens to ₹20 lakh bracket. Over 100 recruiting organisations participated, spanning consulting, fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), financial institutions, and technology and product firms. Recruiters adopted more rigorous evaluation, emphasising knowledge, skills, and abilities, and students prepared through mock interviews, case discussions, and functional assessments.

Initiatives and collaborations

Recent developments include Samriddhi, a 12-week incubation programme focused on women-led enterprises, with a Startup Track and an Entrepreneur-in-Residence Track. The institute has also taken up campus expansion through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) under the Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer (DBFOT) model, including additional hostel rooms and new academic facilities. On the policy and research side, it signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to serve as knowledge partner for a data innovation initiative, and a Statement of Intent with NITI Aayog's Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office.

Alumni snapshot

ROHIT JAISWAL
(2012–14): Partner, Lagrange Point; Co-founder, Bombay Shaving Company

DEEWAKAR GUPTA
(2013–15): Technical Director, KPMG

SATABDI MAZUMDER
(2012–14): Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer; Deputy Development Commissioner, Bokaro

VIKRAMADITYA GUHA
(2011–13): Director, Global Corporate Strategy, Wipro

What do students like about studying here?

AMRUTA PATIL
BTech (Electrical and Electronics Engineering)

"The balance between academic intensity and a strong sense of community. Classes are engaging, professors encourage open discussions, and peers genuinely help each other."

ADITYA PANWAR
BTech (Computer Science Engineering)

"Learning extends far beyond the classroom. Student-led committees and the Council of Student Affairs build leadership and interpersonal skills, and professors are approachable mentors."

A young campus shaping its identity through depth, not scale

FOR aspirants comparing India's top management pathways, IIM Udaipur stands out for its clear academic focus and the way it blends research, digital capability, and industry exposure. Prof Ashok Banerjee, Director of IIM Udaipur, describes these as the institute's core identity. "Our identity is built on a strong emphasis on research, a future-oriented curriculum, and a deep commitment to values," he says.

One of the institute's most distinctive choices has been to build depth in specific domains. The one-year MBAs in Digital Enterprise Management and Global Supply Chain Management are designed around emerging business needs, supported by a curriculum that consistently incorporates analytics, technology management, and sustainability. As Prof Banerjee puts it, "Digital is not an add-on at IIM Udaipur — it is part of our DNA."

Industry engagement is another deliberate priority. Courses co-designed with practitioners, advisory boards with leaders from varied sectors, and immersion-driven learning platforms give students early exposure to workplace expectations. A recently introduced Corporate Engagement Programme places faculty inside companies for short stints, strengthening the loop between academic insight and business practice.

Access remains part of the institute's long-term strategy. The bilingual BBA programme aims to widen the entry pipeline for students who may hesitate to pursue management education due to English fluency barriers. "The programme offers a smooth transition from bilingual instruction to academically strong English proficiency," Prof Banerjee says.

Beyond curriculum design, the institute places emphasis on applied learning as it marks its 15th year. Students engage with simulations, industry-linked projects, and immersion-based coursework supported by platforms such as the Behavioural Lab and specialised centres. Holistic development is built into campus life through over 40 student-driven clubs, peer-learning systems, and leadership roles that create space for responsibility and collaboration alongside academic work.

What's fun on campus?

- **Best canteen dish:** Aloo paratha from Megha Foods
- **Informal tradition:** Celebrating festivals before or after the date so everyone can be present
- **Campus lingo:** "globe" or "globing", which means talking confidently without full clarity
- **Best time on campus:** August to December, with rains, winter, and festival season
- **Hangout spot:** The D2 area with cafés and shops
- **Most Instagram-worthy spot:** Above the mess stairs, with Aravallis on one side
- **Most competitive space:** Elected committees with multi-round selections

PROF ASHOK BANERJEE,
DIRECTOR OF IIM UDAIPUR

From shortlist to seat: The admission timeline

IIM admissions move through multiple stages after the CAT, where profiles and round performance affect the composite score

STAGE 1: CAT SCORE
CAT forms the base for shortlisting, along with profile factors in many cases

STAGE 2: SHORTLIST
Shortlisting is based on CAT performance and profile signals, including academics, work experience, and diversity, and sometimes an AWT (Analytical Writing Test)

STAGE 3: GD
Group discussions are part of the process for some institutes and formats

STAGE 4: PI
Personal interviews test clarity, communication, goals, and domain knowledge

STAGE 5: SOP / PROFILE
The statement of purpose and overall profile are evaluated as part of the final composite assessment

HOW THE FINAL DECISION IS MADE
Final selection is based on a composite score, where **CAT carries 40%–60% weight, and WAT/PI contributes 20%–48%**

TIMELINE NOTE
Final offers typically roll out by May 2027

The 6-Month Mastery Plan

A strong CAT performance is rarely built on last-minute intensity. It comes from treating preparation like a system — easing into concepts early, scaling up practice at the right time, and using mocks to tighten accuracy and strategy. If you want a phase-wise plan that outlines how aspirants can structure the next six months for steady, compounding progress, look no further.

Months 1–2: foundations

Master core concepts across QA (arithmetic, algebra, geometry), VARC (grammar, reading comprehension), and DILR (puzzles, charts). Spend 2 hours daily on weak areas, solve 50 topic questions, and build RC fluency through newspaper reading. Move ahead after reaching 80% accuracy

Months 3–4: intensive practice

Add sectional mocks weekly per section, along with 100 advanced questions per topic. Build speed to under 2 minutes per question using error logs focused on pain points such as inequalities or arrangements. Continue 30–45 minutes of daily reading and LR drills

Months 5–6: mocks and mastery

Increase to 2–3 full mocks per week, targeting 25–30 total. Analyse each mock for 4–6 hours to refine strategies. Revise high-yield topics such as algebra, RC, and puzzles, along with past papers and a formula notebook. Target 85%+ accuracy and 99+ percentiles under timed conditions

Daily rhythm

1 hour QA/DILR, 1 hour VARC, 30 minutes review/reading

Weekly rhythm

1–2 mocks with deep analysis, plus one rest day to prevent burnout

Note
Commerce aspirants can prioritise QA early, and use forums for doubts and free resources like past CAT papers

CAT 2026
Dates, pattern, and cut-offs at a glance

TIMELINE
- **Registration:** August 2026
- **Exam:** late November 2026
- **Results:** early 2027

TEST FORMAT
- Computer-based test
- **Duration:** 120 minutes

Sections
- VARC (verbal ability, reading comprehension)
- DILR (data interpretation, logical reasoning)
- QA (quantitative aptitude)

Total questions: 66
VARC: 24 | **DILR:** 20 | **QA:** 22

TARGET CUT-OFFS (GENERAL CATEGORY, TOP IIM SHORTLIST RANGE)

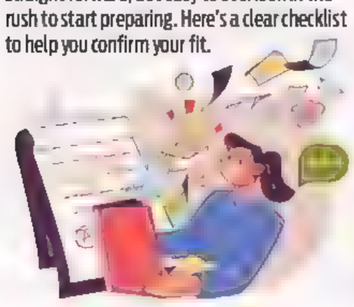
Overall
98 to 100 percentile

Sectionals
80 to 90 percentile

PRO TIP!
Past papers from iimcat.ac.in build stamina

DO YOU QUALIFY?

Eligibility for CAT and IIM admissions is straightforward, but easy to overlook in the rush to start preparing. Here's a clear checklist to help you confirm your fit.



ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST
- A **bachelor's degree** from a recognised university
- **Minimum 50% aggregate marks** (45% for reserved categories)
- **Final-year students** are eligible to apply provisionally
- **Professional qualifications** such as CA, CS, or ICWA are accepted with equivalent scores
- **No age limit** specified for CAT or IIM admissions
- **Work experience is not mandatory;** fresh graduates are eligible

PROFILE CONSIDERATIONS TO NOTE
- IIM shortlisting goes beyond scores and considers **academic background, work experience, and diversity factors**
- Several IIMs aim for **academic and gender diversity,** which can influence shortlisting outcomes
- A strong profile can complement CAT performance during later admission stages

What this means for aspirants
Meeting the eligibility criteria is only the first filter. While CAT scores remain central, IIM admissions typically evaluate candidates across multiple dimensions, making profile-building and clarity of goals relevant alongside exam preparation.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

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19.01.2026
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Scrabble debuts

On this day, in 1955, Scrabble was first sold in the United Kingdom and Australia, marking the international debut of the American game

THE ORIGIN

Originally called Criss Cross, the game, which was based on the crossword puzzle and anagrams, was developed by Alfred M. Butts, an architect, in 1931

BRUNOT'S REVAMP

James Brunot rearranged the premium squares, simplified the rules, and renamed the game Scrabble. It was first marketed in 1948

EXPANSION

Scrabble was later produced in many foreign languages and in Braille. It continues to be one of the leading board-and-tile games in the US

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

Shelling It Right

CE examines how the city's winter, when crab demand peaks, is prompting kitchens to source the ingredient more sustainably and adopt thoughtful cooking practices

SRUTHI HEMACHANDRAN

CRABS have always been messy, indulgent, luxurious and deeply tied to coastal memory. In Bengaluru, a city far from the sea yet loving coastal flavours, chefs are rethinking how the crustacean appears on the plate. What's changing isn't the love for crabs, but the way it is timed, dictated by seasonality, sourcing and availability. Chefs are also adopting sustainable practices by using parts of the crab which are traditionally discarded and produce large amounts of waste.

At The Konkan, Church Street, sustainability begins with knowing when not to serve crab. Chaitra, co-founder of the restaurant, says sourcing is guided by maturity and season rather than demand. "We source blue crabs from coastal Karnataka and mud crabs from Vishakhapatnam, but only once they reach around 300gm," she says, adding, "That way, we're choosing fully grown crabs and not disrupting the ecosystem."

Seasonal fishing bans play a decisive role. The west coast typically observes a ban from June to July, while the east coast's restrictions fall between April and June. "During the breeding season, large trawlers are prohibited from deep-sea fishing. When supply is limited and prices rise, we don't force crab on the menu," Chaitra explains. Instead, the restaurant shifts focus to meat dishes, allowing marine life, time to replenish.

Parika Coastal Village at HSR Layout operates similarly, sourcing crab exclusively from Malpe in southern Karnataka and working only with fresh catch. Head chef Rajendra M says, "Availability depends completely on the daily catch, which supports responsible harvesting."

JW Marriott Hotel, Chef de Cuisine Raju Dorjee notes that diners are often inquisitive regarding crab offerings. "Many ask about origin and sustainability, which reinforces the need for transparency," he shares.

Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Hotel's executive chef, Ho Chi Ming, agrees, "Many actively enquire about the sourcing of seafood and other ingredients. We make it a point to clearly communicate these practices to our guests."

Waste to Wow

The Konkon's most popular crab dishes – crab chilli and crab ghee roast remain close to tradition, relying on mildly spiced masalas that complement the crab's natural sweetness. Innovation appears selectively, most notably in a butter garlic soft-shell crab, made using edible-shell crabs sourced from Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. "They're delicate, the shell is edible and they add something new without moving away from coastal flavours," she says. Serving these crabs whole also helps minimise kitchen waste.

According to Ming, responsible sourcing is non-negotiable under the hotel's seafood sustainability policy. This discipline still leaves room for creativity.

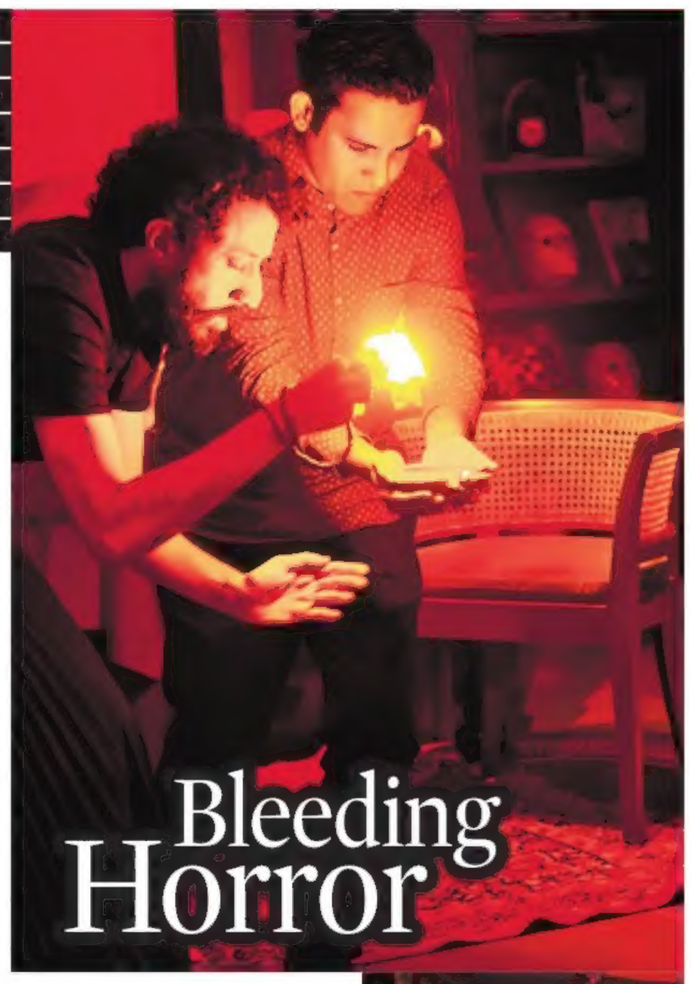
At R Bar, a more global expression of crab appears in its signature crab brulee. "This one's an unexpected savoury reinterpretation of the French dessert. It's not a traditional creme brulee. We use locally sourced crab meat, a parmesan crust, lump fish roe and a quattro formgaggi base," Ming explains. Notably, in the kitchen, waste is addressed by repurposing shells into soups and sauces, extracting flavour long after the meat is used. "When boiled, the shells release deep, robust flavours that form an excellent foundation for broths and sauces," says Ming.

In Mangaluru, crab is known as denji and Parika's menu treats it with quiet reverence. "Crab ghee roast, crab sukka and denji curry are prepared using stone-ground masalas, coconut mylk, byadagi chillies and pure ghee. These dishes combine traditional coastal recipes with careful sourcing of fresh crabs, allowing the natural flavours to shine without over-processing," Rajendra says.

In short, Bengaluru's approach to crab is becoming more measure-defined, with timing and technique playing the key role in the food-scape.

Blood Moon Over Bengaluru, an immersive experience, combines the world of Gothic literature with Karnataka's horror folklore

Bleeding Horror



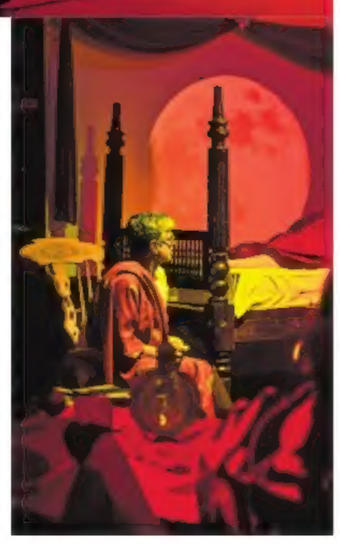
MAHIMA NAGARAJU

SUGANDHA withers away into darkness under the shadow of a waning moon and if the curse isn't lifted by the time the moon goes black, she will be lost forever. Unlike traditional theatre, where you would expect a knight in shining armour, it's the audience that must save her in Blood Moon Over Bengaluru, which took place in the city over the weekend, maybe even discovering that there's more to it than meets the eye.

"It is an immersive experience inspired by Gothic horror, folklore and queer resistance, based on Carmilla, which predates Dracula by 25 years and is one of the first queer horror love stories written in our world," says Sonia Parekh, creative producer and head at Immerse by Storiculture, creators of this experience. She adds, "The line between the creator and the audience blurs – it's like a live murder mystery."

Initially performed in Goa and once before in Bengaluru, the creators adapt the story to each city, its existing folklore, and the venue. This time, they turned Sabha (originally a 160-year-old Tamil school) into an ancient school of witchcraft, incorporating Kannada folk characters, like the 'Raktapisachi'. As Parekh explains, "Each member who walks in through the door is assigned a character, each aligning with different myths and folklore across time, each having a superpower. They've all been invited into this space by the host to break the curse. Our research has gone much deeper this time, with more folklore adding layers to the story."

Admitting 50 people per session, the story progressed according to the actions of participants in each team, with the final outcome in their hands. As Parekh puts it, "We are mixing theatre, gameplay, and technology in the form of light and sound to create an environment that transports you to the 1800s. You will have to crack hunts, riddles and puzzles to get to the next level – similar to how you play a video game. Each of the levels and stakes of the stories get unlocked as you go."



CITY READ

Mahabharata retelling centring Draupadi to be staged in Bengaluru

God's Lioness, a reimagining of the *Mahabharata* through Draupadi's voice, featuring puppetry, masks and movement inspired by Chhau and Kathakali, is set to be staged in Bengaluru on Jan 23 (Ranga Shankara), 24 (Jagriti Theatre) and 29 (MAHE) after a run in Delhi and Gurugram. The 80-minute production by Pratibimb Theatre Company reframes the *Mahabharata* through a contemporary feminist and metaphysical lens, centring Draupadi in a journey of awakening. Characters become metaphors for existential forces: Draupadi as womanhood, Kunti as society, Krishna as the divine, and the Pandavas as the male experience. For tickets, visit bookmyshow.com.

From Pinterest boards to bedroom walls, vision boarding is helping Bengalureans pause, reflect and stay intentional, turning everyday goals into visible reminders

Seeing is Believing

ANJALI RAM

ENTERING 2026, many must have encountered people posting about vision boards – with feeds filled with visual collages of images, words, and symbols. But what are they? Simply put, they are dream boards of personal goals, that have moved from self-help circles to becoming a mainstream trend. Rooted in ideas of manifestation and mindfulness, they help people clarify what they want, stay focused and feel motivated, turning even abstract dreams into a practical and emotionally engaging reality.

Bengaluru-based corporate employee and content creator Shoeb Ansar, recalls how this shift came after years of forgotten New Year resolutions. "A vision board felt different because it's not something you think about once and forget, you see it every single day," he says. The constant visual presence, gently guides daily decisions rather than offering loud bursts of motivation, he points out.

For popular content creator Rida Tharana what began as a casual group activity with friends became an annual ritual. She traces her vision-boarding journey to social media reels in 2024. She breaks her board into three layers – achievable goals, stretch goals, and what she calls her 'delusional' dreams – big-ticket aspirations like buying a house.

Yet there is no single correct way to create a vision board. "The effectiveness depends entirely on your vision, your goals, and how well the board reflects what you want to achieve," says Ansar while Tharana adds, "When you visualise, print things out, and physically stick them on a board, you're putting in effort to imprint those thoughts in your mind. That's why it works for me."

For anyone doubtful, manifestation coach Bhavya Vignesh cuts through the scepticism. "Our mind thinks in images and a vision board is a visual way of putting your goals together. They work only when combined with belief and consistent action," she explains.

In her workshops, reflection comes before creativity. Participants journal, visualise, and only then create their boards – keeping expectations realistic and grounded. "The Law of Attraction says that what you focus on, you attract. So when you focus on your goals again and again, your thoughts, feelings, and actions slowly come into alignment," she notes.

Reel to Real

For dancer and theatre actor Tapaswini Varshneya, vision boarding became a tool for clarity after the uncertainty of the pandemic. "I could never answer where I see myself in five years," she sighs, adding, "The more I see my vision board, the more I know – consciously and subconsciously, where I'm headed."

Similarly, copywriter Pavithra Prabhu uses them as an emotional anchor. "My board has all aspects of my life. I used it as the starting point for all my goals. I pinned only the images that spoke to me or evoked an emotion," she says.

Digital vs physical

There's no one-size-fits-all approach. Digital boards as phone wallpapers, Canva collages, or Pinterest boards work well for screen-heavy routines and physical boards, placed near beds or desks, offer a tactile, screen-free reminder. As many users notes, the key is visibility - If you see it every day, it works!

Manifestation or magic?

Vision boards don't work unless you work, points out Tharana. "I can't sit here and say I manifest my dreams just by putting them out into the universe. It is more about intention...putting yourself out there and hoping things work out while trusting whatever higher power or belief you hold. You have to show up, put in the effort, and move in that direction," she strongly believes.

Dos & Don'ts

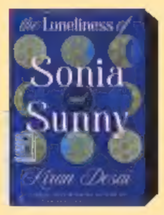
Do

- Choose goals that feel meaningful to you
- Keep it simple and visible
- Pair visualising with small, consistent actions

Don't

- Copy someone else's dreams
- Overload your board with unrealistic goals
- Treat it as a shortcut without effort

BOOK NOOK

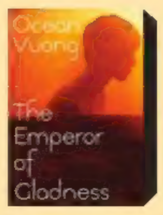


The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny
By Kiran Desai

Uncertain of their future, Sonia and Sunny embark on a search for happiness together as they confront the many alienations of our modern world.

Katabasis
by R F Kuang

Katabasis takes readers into a thrilling myth-infused journey rooted in Ancient Greek lore. Two Cambridge academic rivals set out to rescue the soul of their advisor from the underworld, a mission that quickly tests more than their intellect.



The Emperor of Gladness
by Ocean Vuong

The author returns with a bighearted novel about a chosen family, unexpected friendship and the stories we tell ourselves in order to survive.

One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This
By Omar El Akkad

The book is a chronicle of a painful realisation, a moral grappling with what it means, as a citizen of the US, as a father, to carve out some sense of possibility in a time of carnage.

FUTURE AHEAD

Visitors take a glimpse of the artworks exhibited at 'Imaginary Futures 2050', an ongoing exhibition reflecting speculative engagements with art, design, technology and emerging futures at Alliance Française de Bangalore, Thimmiah Road | KEVIN NASHON

QUICKFIX

SEMOLINA ORANGE CAKE

INGREDIENTS

- **Semolina:** ¼ cup
- **Sugar syrup:** 1½ tbsp
- **Oil or melted butter:** 1 tbsp
- **Orange zest or juice:** 1 tsp
- **Curd:** 2 tbsp
- **Sugar:** 1½ tbsp
- **Baking powder:** ½ tsp
- **Lemon juice:** 2-3 drops

METHOD

- Mix semolina, curd, sugar, oil, baking powder, salt, and orange zest and let it rest for 10 minutes.
- Grease a small bowl/pan and pour the batter evenly.
- Cover and cook on low flame for 20-25 minutes (or bake at 180°C for 20 minutes).
- Mix together and boil the syrup ingredients for 3-4 minutes.
- Pour the hot syrup over the hot cake and let it soak for a few minutes and serve.

Contributed by **Pinky Chopra**, Delhi

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

We have a dog and are thinking of getting a cat. Should we take the risk?

Dogs and cats are not natural adversaries, but their differing instincts and ways of communicating can influence how successfully they live together. Many households see dogs and cats coexist harmoniously, particularly when introductions are done slowly and thoughtfully. Factors such as the dog's prey drive, temperament, age, and previous exposure to cats are important, as is the cat's confidence and access to secure escape areas. Close supervision, gradual introductions, and positive reinforcement during early interactions are crucial. Although some level of risk always exists, with careful planning, patience, and an understanding of each pet's behaviour, successful integration is often achievable.

ASK AN XPERT

FITBIT

TRAINING FOR LONGEVITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Ageing doesn't mean you have to slow down, lose strength, or give up the activities you love. In fact, with the right strategy, you can not only maintain fitness but also improve strength, mobility, and resilience as you age.

AS WE GET OLDER, THE BODY UNDERGOES SEVERAL CHANGES:

- **Bone and heart health:** Age increases risk for osteoporosis and arteriosclerosis (hardening of arteries), which can lead to fractures or cardiovascular disease.
- **Muscle loss (sarcopenia):** Without resistance training, adults start losing muscle mass as early as their 30s, and this accelerates over time.
- **Mobility decline:** Reduced range of motion increases risk of injury and limits activity.

TRAINING PRIORITIES FOR AGEING WELL

A variety of everyday foods can help meet daily vitamin K needs:

- **Training:** Strength training combats muscle loss and preserves functional mobility.
- Full-body workouts 3x/week with compound movements (hinge, squat, push, pull) help maintain muscle mass.
- Incorporate single-leg and core stability moves to support balance.
- Finish with isolation exercises (e.g., light presses, lateral raises) to build muscle in smaller groups without joint strain.
- **Mobility first:** Maintaining joint movement and tissue flexibility reduces injury risk and keeps daily activities pain-free. Short daily mobility sessions (~10-15 minutes) improve joint mechanics, balance, and movement confidence.
- **Preserve power and balance:** The ability to move quickly declines with age but can be maintained with low-impact plyometrics (e.g., medicine-ball throws, slow box jumps). Improved balance training reduces fall risk, which is a leading cause of injury later in life.
- **Add LISS & movement variety:** Low-intensity steady-state cardio (like brisk walking or cycling) supports heart health and complements strength training.

Fitness is for anyone who wants to stay strong, mobile, and independent into their later decades. By combining progressive strength training, dedicated mobility work, balance and power drills, and regular movement, you can age stronger, fitter, and healthier than ever before.

By Dhruva Sivakumar, fitness expert, cult – a fitness and wellness platform

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Artful Minimalism

Discover the art of boho minimal texture painting in a guided session that blends technique with self-expression, leaving you with a unique masterpiece to take home. This workshop offers a perfect escape for creative minds.

WHEN: January 19, 5pm, **WHERE:** Art Beat, HSR Layout
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Comedy Riot

Experience an evening of refined humour as comedian **Gaurav Gupta** presents his stand-up solo show in the city. Enjoy a refined blend of observational humour and relatable anecdotes.

WHEN: January 19, 7pm
WHERE: The Comedy Theatre, Indiranagar
DETAILS: district.in

Neon Glow

Immerse yourself in a neon-themed event and light up the night in style! Highlights include free glow-in-the dark-face-painting, free entry for all and free drinks for ladies. With a blend of Bollywood and EDM beats all night long, expect epic vibes, high energy and some unforgettable moments with your loved ones. **WHEN:** January 24, 7.30pm
WHERE: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Aqua Magic

Kickstart your week as you step into the world of aquatic wonder. Whether you're a family seeking a day of wonder, a marine enthusiast yearning for discovery, or simply looking for an unforgettable escape, this event promises an experience that will leave you spellbound and inspired.

WHEN: January 19, 10.30am
WHERE: Aquarium Paradise, Jayamahal Main Road
DETAILS: district.in

Just do it!

Take yourself to this open mic platform, where individuals are invited to express their talents – be it standup comedy, live music, storytelling or poetry recital. The event promises an informal, supportive and welcoming space for both beginners and experienced performers.

WHEN: January 21, 7.01pm
WHERE: Huddle Coffee Co., Hennur Gardens
CALL: 96866 47373

Clay Touch

Rediscover your inner child as you get to explore clay art at this Bare Hand Pottery Workshop. Without any tools or wheels, participants get to mould, shape and form clay into beautiful functional art – guided step by step by experts.

WHEN: January 19, 2pm onwards
WHERE: Thirdspace – Art Cafe & Community, Hosur Mainroad
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@express_bengaluru

ARTCORNER

SKY FLYING

Seema Kohli's work moves across material histories, mythic imaginings and deeply personal narratives of feminine resilience

'I MAY BE KILLED ANYTIME...'

In an interaction with ***CE***, author-activist **Taslima Nasrin** opens up about her younger days, fight against Islamic laws, situation in Bangladesh, revolt in Iran and more

APARNA NAIR

Just a day after flying in from New York, Bangladeshi author Taslima Nasrin sits through her session at the Kerala Legislature International Book Festival and then speaks to *CE* patiently, passionately for nearly two hours.

She says she likes collecting photographs from places where people value her – images she later contrasts with the way she is treated by the West Bengal government, which she alleges is swayed by fundamentalist pressure.

Raised as an atheist by her father, Taslima recalls reading the Quran in Arabic without understanding it. When she read it in Bengali, she found its tenets oppressive to women.

A doctor by profession, she chose to speak up – a decision that turned her life into a whirlwind after she was exiled from Bangladesh. That, however, did not subdue her spirit. Politics, she says, is not her path. Writing is. And speaking, too.

Excerpts

● You have donned many roles: doctor, poet, author, activist... which one do you identify with most?
I just want to be called an honest person. I was surrounded by dishonest people. Now I am not accepted – neither in Bengal nor in Bangladesh. The Left government of West Bengal banned me in 2003. But now the Left Front government honours me in Kerala. Why? I am the same person.

● Bangladesh was once a hub of Bengali intellect, mysticism and culture. Why do you think it changed?
After Partition, many Hindus left the land. It became a Muslim-majority state. Initially, Hindus made up about 30 per cent of the population. Now it is only around 8 per cent.

● Are you implying that a Muslim majority changes the character of the land?
Of course. The kind of education the Muslim majority receives also plays a role. Governments used religion for their own interests, allowing mosques and madrasas to come up everywhere, where sectarianism was taught. Sermons containing anti-Hindu and anti–non-Muslim hate were allowed. As a result, Hindus and Buddhists were attacked. Every leader did this – (Hussain Muhammad) Ershad, Khaleda Zia, even (Sheikh) Hasina. She built 560 model mosques. Why do you need so many? Leaders never thought of the nation or the future of children. They only thought of staying in power. Children ended up reading just one book and became fanatics. Bangladesh was culturally rich. We had poetry, dance, music in schools and neighbourhoods. Now all that has stopped. Fundamentalists occupied the country with the help of successive governments.

● Bangladesh has had women leaders....
That is dynastic politics. Women have no real rights. Dynasties put Sheikh Hasina, Khaleda Zia, and Roshan Ershad in power. Dynastic politics must end. Ideological commitment is required to improve women's lives. Islamic tenets oppose women ruling or mixing with men, but fundamentalists allow it when it suits them.

● You belong to Mymensingh, where a Hindu man was recently burnt to death...
Yes. Dipu Das was beaten to death and then burnt. In recent days, about seven Hindus have been killed. Many Hindu homes have been burnt and women raped, especially since 2024. The attacks intensified after the regime change. Fundamentalists were behind the student protests.

● Similar incidents, though not to the same extent, happen in India too...
Yes, minorities are targeted across the world. I have spoken against that as well, be it Hindus, Muslims, Christians or Buddhists. I have written against killings over beef. But you cannot compare what is happening to minorities in Pakistan or Bangladesh with what is happening in India.

● Do these incidents relate to people increasingly wearing their religion on their sleeves?
In the 1970s and '80s, hardly anyone wore a burqa. In schools and medical colleges, there was no hijab. Women wore saris or salwar kameez. Now it is everywhere. Something positive is happening in Iran. Women are protesting against the hijab, and against the Islamic regime. I have felt the burqa is a man's attire. Men wear it when they want to kill, steal or do bad things. I would not feel comfortable speaking to someone whose face is covered. For security reasons, it should be banned.

● You had backed the CAA...
I want it extended to free thinkers and writers banned in countries like Bangladesh and Pakistan. Many of us carry Muslim names but are atheists. We were forced out for opposing Islamic laws. From abroad, we speak against violence – against fanatics burning Hindu homes to seize land. Atheists and humanists are threatened and driven out. I always seek solace for them from India. Free thinkers are above religion. I am above religion.

● You have been called a Hindutva supporter...
That is propaganda by jihadis. Whenever I criticise Islam, they brand me a R&AW agent or a BJP–RSS supporter. This is common, specially when I speak about Muslim women's rights.

● You are accused of attacking core beliefs...
Of course. Those tenets must change. There are provisions in religious texts that are against women – in marriage, divorce, inheritance. A man can have four wives; women cannot even divorce. Women get less property than their brothers. Patriarchy thrives when religious laws oppress women.

● Many women now speak up for women's rights. Will things change?
Change is happening. Women may be wearing burqas, but they are getting educated and working. It is slow, but it is happening. At the same time, fundamentalism is growing. Free thinkers must challenge the idea that Islam is exempt from criticism. It must reform. I want a Uniform Civil Code based on equality everywhere.

● In the West, some women say the burqa is about religious identity...
I see even small girls wearing burqas in New York. What identity are they seeking in a country where everyone is equal and all benefits are available? This is not about identity. How long will people say this? They pressure the UK to adopt Sharia laws, which are against women. Polygamy and FGM are illegal in Europe, yet some practise them in London. This is torture, indoctrination.

● How do you view Muhammad Yunus, once seen as a Nobel Peace Prize icon?
I think he is like Aung San Suu Kyi or Henry Kissinger – peace prize winners who later proved harmful. Mob violence has been going on for a year and he does not care.

● Will polls in Bangladesh change the situation there?
There is some hope, though I don't know how much. One day, people in Bangladesh will tire of Islamic laws and revolt, like in Iran, where people now say: 'We are not a Muslim nation, we are Persians. And we don't want Islamic laws.'

● Has writing been a liberating experience for you?
I don't write to entertain. I write to make people think, to change society. Writers cannot bring about revolution overnight. But some people have changed their ideas because of my work. Some extremists have become liberal. Writing can influence governments too, but it takes time. Religious fanatics, however, read only one book.

● How careful should writers be about hurting religious sentiments?
I am not. Why should I be, when other sentiments are hurt daily? Fundamentalists invoke archaic laws, issue fatwas.... that should not happen. Democracy means freedom of expression.

● Can religious freedom, freedom of expression coexist?
Yes. But if a religion calls for violence, democratic laws must intervene. You can practise religion until it harms others. You cannot block roads for mass prayers or kill in the name of faith.

● You also write love poems. How does it fit with activism?
Because I believe in love. I want love and respect for all.

● How are you received in West Bengal today?
[Chief Minister] Mamata Banerjee banned my TV series. I want to be in Kolkata as I am Bengali. But she won't allow.

● What is your next project?
I haven't thought about it yet. I need to think of another book.

● Have you ever wished you had chosen a peaceful life instead of activism?
No. I need to write for people. I may be killed anytime. I still receive threats. But if I can contribute to humanity and equality, my life will be meaningful.

(With inputs from Anil S & Parvana KB)

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CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, K.GUNALAN, Residing at No.5, 2nd Cross, Kacharkanahalli, Hennur Main Road, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560084, that i have changed my minor Daughter Name from **DEEPTI TO DEEPTHI.G,** vide affidavit dated, 17/01/2026, sworn before C.Santhosh, Notary public, at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **UMME ZUMRA**, aged about 21 years, D/o. Syed Nazeer Basha, resident at Flat No.203, 2nd Cross, Sai Regency Apartment, Above Indian Bank, K R Puram, BBMP North, Bangalore-560036, Karnataka, India, have changed my name from **UMME ZUMRA** to **ZUMRA S,** vide affidavit dated 17-01-2026 sworn before notary S N MADHU, Reg. No.10108 Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AMRUTHA EDALA** (Old Name), aged about 54 years, W/o. Sudhakar Reddy Nandarapu, Residing at No.186, 9th Cross, C I L Layout, Cholanayakanahalli, R T Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560032, Karnataka, declare that I have changed my name from **AMRUTHA EDALA** (Old Name) to **AMRUTHA** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **AMRUTHA** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 17/01/2026 before Notary **GANGARAJU.B.N.** at BENGALURU

AFFIDAVIT
I, **CHAITRA JAYKUMAR**, D/o. Jaykumar, Aged about 34 years, Resident of No. 23, 3rd Main, 3rd Cross, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560072, do hereby declare that, my correct name is **CHAITRA SOANS**. However, by mistake my name has been recorded as **CHAITRA JAYKUMAR** in my records / documents. Vide affidavit dated 17.01.2026 sworn to before H.R. Karunakara, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Sri. HEMAVATHI.V** W/O SRINIVASA.A, aged about 38 years, residing at Marigowdanadoddi Village, Maralavadi Hohli, Kanakapura Taluk, Bangaluru south dist, I change my daughter name. **RUPALIKA.S to RAKSHITHA.S** before advocate and notary by **ANITHA BAI**

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **Pankaj Kumar** Aged about, 43 years, S/o. Chun Chun Prasad Yadav and Swasti Sinha Aged about 33 Years, W/o. Pankaj Kumar, both are residing at No.G-304, Caesar's Place, K.P.Main Road, Opp. to KSIT College, Raghuvanahalli, Thalaghatapura, Bengaluru-560062, have changed our Daughter's name from **PREKSHA to PREKSHA ROY** vide Affidavit No. IN-KA52171804479720Y dated 17/01/2026, sworn to before Advocate and Notary public Ambreeshappa, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, KALAVATHI JAIN (old name) W/o. Ashok Kumar Jain, aged about 53 years, Residing at Flat No 2063, 6th floor, Tower 2 Prestige West Woods, Minerva mills compound, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023 Have changed my name to **KALAVATHI (New name)** for all official records in future vide affidavit dt 18-01-2026 and sworn before advocate and Notary K.C.Gowthami Bangalore INDIA

CHANGE OF NAME
I, K.GUNALAN, Residing at No.5, 2nd Cross, Kacharkanahalli, Hennur Main Road, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560084, that I have changed my minor Daughter Name from **VAISHNAVEE TO VAISHNAVI.G,** vide affidavit dated, 17/01/2026, sworn before C.Santhosh, Notary public, at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I,**Shankaranand Satishchandra** (Old Name), S/o Sathishchandra Kanni, aged about 37 years, residing at No.F99, G S Bhoomika G1, Ground Floor, 2nd Cross, Near Mallathahalli Park, NGEF Layout, Bangalore - 560 056 have changed my name as **SHANKARANAND S KANNI** (New Name) vide affidavit dated 17.01.2026 sworn before Advocate & Notary Devaraja E., Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I Chaithra Yajamanam, Date of Birth: 08.10.2007 D/o Surendra Yajamanam, Mother's name Sivaranjani Gali, R/a No. 347, 1st Cross, 5th main, Canara Bank Layout, Near Kodigehalli ATM, Bengaluru-560097 have changed my name from **Chaitra Yajamanam (Old Name) to Chaithra Yajamanam (New Name)** vide affidavit dated 31.01.2025 sworn before advocate & Notary Chandrakala, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BABU AFROZ**, S/o Babu Resident at No.828, Peenya Plantation, 4th Block, Siddartha Nagar, Jalahalli West Bengaluru – 560015, have changed my name from **BABU AFROZ** to **AFROZ** vide affidavit dated 17.01.2026, sworn before notary N Mahesha, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **VINODKUMAR KOTABAGI**, S/o Late Dundappa, Age: 42 Years, Occupation: Advocate, r/at No.25/1, Utsav, Matrushree Layout, Ganagondanahalli Main Road, Kariobanahalli, Bengaluru-560073, have changed my 9 year old minor son's name from **DUNDESH to DUNDESH KOTABAGI** vide affidavit dated 17/01/2026 before Advocate & Notary **RANGANATHA GOWDA.**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Fulendra kumar yadav (Existing Name as per service Documents), son of Sita Ram Yadav Resident of village - Jhahura, Post Office - Laukaha, Police station - Supaul District - Supaul state- Bihar pin code -852110 , Presently residing at SMQ P -228/02 HQTC, IAF JC Nagar post -Hebbal, Bengaluru, Karnataka Pincode - 560006 Have changed my Name from **FULENDRA KUMAR YADAV** (Existing Name as per service Documents) to **PHOOLENDRA KUMAR YADAV** vide affidavit dated 15/12/2025 sworn before advocate and notary Jalandhara, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, ASHOK JAIN (old name) S/o. Chaganlal, aged about 55 years, Residing at Flat No 2063, 6th floor, Tower 2 Prestige West Woods, Minerva Mills Compound, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023 Have changed my name to **ASHOK KUMAR JAIN (New name)** for all official records in future vide affidavit dt 18-01-2026 and Sworn before advocate and Notary K.C.Gowthami, Bangalore, INDIA

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **REDDY SHARANA BASAVARAJ** and **SUSHMA SHIRIGERI** both husband and wife Residing at Flat No. 103, 1st Floor, Sanjana Sahara Apartment, 16th Main, Garvebhavipalya, MICO Layout Water Tank, Begur, Bangalore-560068 hereby state that in my minor's Son **TANUSH GOUD REDDY's** school record the Fathers's name is mentioned as **R SHARANA BASAVARAJ** instead of **REDDY SHARANA BASAVARAJ**, Mother's Name is mentioned as **SUSHMA SHERIGERI** instead of **SUSHMA SHIRIGERI** and his name is mentioned as **TANUSH R** instead of **TANUSH GOUD REDDY**. Names have been rectified as said above vide affidavit dated 17-01-2026 before Notary A.S. Narayana Reddy, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **REKHA RAJESH JAIN,** W/o Rajesh Kumar Jain, R/at No. 19, MAA Padmavathi Krupa Market Road, V V Puram, bangalore-560 004 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **REKHA RAJESH KUMAR JAIN** to **REKHA RAJESH JAIN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **REKHA RAJESH JAIN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 07-01-2026, sworn before Advocate and notary **L. Shankaranarayana** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, (old name) NIKHATH JAHAN RAHMAN KHAN AMMANULLA KHAN Residing at No. Flat No. 302, B Block, Janya Gardenia Apartments, 25, 1st Main Road, Pioneer Defence Colony, Kaveri Nagar, R.T Nagar Post, Bangalore - 560 032 have changed my name from (old name) NIKHATH JAHAN RAHMAN KHAN AMANULLA KHAN to (new name) NIKHATH JAHAN vide affidavit dated 13.01.2026 sworn before notary A. Manjula, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **AMRITA DEVI TARIA,** W/o MANTHAN KULSHRESTHA, aged about 31 years, Residing at: Flat No. A 904, Sumadhura Silver Ripples, Nallurhalli Main Road, Nallurhalli, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560066, Karnataka State, India, have changed my name to **AMRITA DEVI** vide Affidavit sworn to before Notary Public, Yankoba, Government of India, Bengaluru City, on this 17th Day of January 2026. Henceforth I wish to be called and known for all acts, deeds and things as **AMRITA DEVI.**

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Smt.SUJATA ANIL RATHOD, W/o Anil Rathod, Aged about 30 Years Residing at No. 2173, Basava Bagevadi Talluk, Managuli, Vijayapura, Karnataka-586122, have changed my name from SUJATHA REVANNEPPA CHAVANA to SUJATA ANIL RATHOD.** vide Affidavit, dated 17/01/2026, sworn to before Advocate and Notary public S.T. Thippeswamy, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PEETHAMBARAN .K,** S/o Late A. Krishnan, aged about 75 years, R/at No. 114, 5th Cross, 8th A Main, Tatanagar, Sahakarnagar Post, Bangalore - 560 092, I declare that below mentioned all the three names **PEETHAMBARAN.K, PEETHAMBARAN KORAMKOTE,** and **PEETHAMBARAN KRISHNAN** pertain to one and the same person i.e., myself., vide affidavit dated 14/1/2026 sworn to before R S Vijay Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, RASHMI VENKATESH, W/O, Venkatesh Kumar, aged about 45 years, residing at 180, 6th main, 2nd Cross, BSK 5 Stage Extn, Uttarhalli Main Road, Bengaluru - 560061, I declare that in my LIC Bond bearing No.614907734, dated 23.01.2006, my name has been wrongly mentioned as **RASHMI J G instead of RASHMI VENKATESH.,** vide affidavit dated 17/1/2026 sworn to before S T Thippeswamy Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, PAVAN UPADHYE, aged 40 years, S/o. Gururaj Upadhye, residing at: E204, Goyal Orchid Lakeview, Lake Road,Bellandur, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560 103.
I have changed my name from **"PAVAN GURURAJ UPADYE" to "PAVAN UPADHYE"** vide affidavit dated 16/01/2026 sworn before Advocate and Notary P. Nanjunda at Bangaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mrs. NIRMALA MOHAN,** W/o Mohan K, age 57 years, R/at No. 7, Nirmalam, 2nd Cross, Sumangali Sevashrama Road, Cholanayakanahalli, R T Nagar Post, Bangalore-560 032 do hereby declare that after my marriage I have changed my name from **NIRMALA KUMARI .M.R to NIRMALA MOHAN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **NIRMALA MOHAN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 14-01-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **K.R. PADMANABHAIAH** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MOHAMMED MUJAHID AGHA,** Resident of No. 11, 4th Cross, 2nd Main, V.R. Puram, P.G. Halli, Vyalikaval, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MOHAMMED MUJAHIDAGA to MOHAMMED MUJAHID AGHA** vide affidavit dated 17.01.2026 sworn to before Dr. R.S. Vijay, Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SADHIK AHMED**, Residing at B6, 402, BDA Chandragiri Apt, Doddabanahalli, Bidare Agrahara, Kanamangala Bangalore – 560115, have changed my name to **SADHIKAHMED SHAIKH** vide affidavit dated16/01/2026 sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Ravi D**, Aged about 41 Years Residing at No. 472, 2nd Floor, 3rd C Cross, Near SBI R R Layout, Nagadevanahalli, Ullalu Upanagara, Bangalore 560056 have changed my name from **CHIKKARAVI D to RAVI D** vide Affidavit, dated 16/01/2026, sworn to before Advocate and Notary public S.T. Thippeswamy, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **LISHA**, aged 27 years, W/o. Sid Bothra, Residing at No. 333, 8th Cross, Laxmi Road, A T Halli Shanthi Nagar, Bengaluru -560027, Karnataka, have changed my name to **LISHA BOTHRA** vide affidavit dated: 17.01.2026 before notary P.N. NAGESHA, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, NANDINI HAREESHA W/O HAREESHA C, having my address at #Karanala village, Tubagere hobli, Doddaballapur taluk, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka - 561205, have changed my name from **Nandini.N** to **Nandini Hareesha,** vide affidavit dated 12/1/2026 sworn to before G R Ravichandra Reddy Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **MUBEENA BANU** (old name), aged about 59 years, W/o. **GAUTAM GHOSH,** residing at No.531, 91st Cross, Near Sagar Hospital, Kumaraswamy Layout 1st Stage, Bangalore-560078, have changed my name to **MONA GHOSH** (new name) vide affidavit dated: 24/11/2025 Before Notary **L. Puttaraju** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ABDUL MOHAMMED NUMAN PASHA,** aged about 29 years, S/o. Abdul Mastan, residing at #418, Thambuswamy Compound Kaliamma Temple Street, Nagaianpalya, Maruthi Sevanagar, Bengaluru 560033, Karnataka State, have changed my name to **MOHAMMED NUMAN PASHA,** vide affidavit dated: 14.01.2026 before Notary **D. Guna Shekar,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SYED FAYAZ**, S/o. Syed Anwar Pasha, resident of # 34, Opposite Little Rose Public School, Vijinapura, Dooravaninagar, Bengaluru-560016, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SYED FIYAZ ANWAR** to **SYED FAYAZ,** vide affidavit dated 31.12.2025, sworn to before B. Chitra, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANUSHREE NAGRAJ PATIL** (new name), previously called **PATIL ANUSHREE** (old name), D/o Nagraj Dattatray Patil and resident of Flat No. F-209, Parimala Sunridge Apartment, Siddhapura, Varthur Main Road, Opposite DMART, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560066. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'PATIL ANUSHREE'** to **'ANUSHREE NAGRAJ PATIL'**, Vide Affidavit dated 17.01.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary Yankoba, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHAGYA LAKSHMI ANANTHA RAMAIAH,** R/o: Flat No. B304, Hexa Supreme Apartment, Begur main road, Devarachikkanahalli, Bangalore-560076. have changed my name to **BHAGYA LAKSHMI** for all purposes vide affidavit dated 16/01/2026 sworn before advocate and notary B.M. CHANDRASHEKAR, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANGELINE ANTHONY,** aged 48 years, W/o. John Chandrakanth, Residing at No.33, Jyothi Nilaya, Mahadevpura, Bengaluru-560048, Karnataka, Have changed my name to **ANGELINE JOHN,** Vide Affidavit Dated: 17.01.2026 before notary **S. SAMUEL SOLOMON,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **THARANI SIVASUBRAMANIAN** D/o. Sivasubramanian, resident of No. 301, Srivanth Green View Apartment 14th Cross, Ananthnagar Phase 2, Bengaluru-560100, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **THARANI IMRAN KHAN** to **THARANI SIVASUBRAMANIAN,** vide affidavit dated 14.01.2026, sworn to before K. Mathialagan, Advocate & Notary, Hosur.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PRASANNA,** Wife of Nagaraj.S, aged 33 years, Residing at No. 23, Srinivasapura, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560 064. I state that **SHAM.N,** is my Son and who was born on 13-02-2010 and the said name and date of birth entered in his Birth Certificate and School records, etc & in his Aadhaar Card my son name entered as **KANDIPATI SRAVAN** and his date of birth by oversight entered as 01-01-2009. Hereby declare that, **SHAM. N** and **KANDIPATI SRAVAN** are the names pertains to my son only and henceforth my son shall be known and called as **SHAM.N.** for all practical purposes and My Son's correct date of birth is 13-02-2010. Vide Affidavit dated 17.01.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary K.Peethambaran, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
We, **Pankaj Kumar** Aged about, 43 years, S/o. Chun Chun Prasad Yadav and Swasti Sinha Aged about 33 Years, W/o. Pankaj Kumar, both are residing at No.G-304, Caesar's Place, K.P.Main Road, Opp. to KSIT College, Raghuvanahalli, Thalaghatapura, Bengaluru-560062, have changed our Daughter's name from **PRATHAM to PRATHAM ROY** vide Affidavit No. IN-KA52721488085659Y dated 17/01/2026, sworn to before Advocate and Notary public Ambreeshappa, Bangalore.

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KOMAL KUMAR PROMISES A LAUGH RIOT WITH TENALI D LLB

The film is helmed by Marichi director Siddhruv Siddhu

A SHARADHAA

AFTER a brief hiatus, actor Komal Kumar is all set to make a fresh impression with his next film, *Tenali D LLB*. Known for being selective about his roles, Komal has carefully chosen this out-and-out comedy for its unique storyline, ensuring it stands apart from the usual fare.

True to its title, *Tenali D LLB* showcases Komal in the role of a lawyer, a character that combines humour with contemporary social relevance. The recently unveiled poster hints at this transformation, presenting Komal in a sharp, professional lawyer look. Interestingly, this isn't just an on-screen experiment as Komal holds a real-life LLB degree, making this role a perfect blend of authenticity and entertainment.

Siddhruv Siddhu

The film is directed by Siddhruv Siddhu, who previously earned critical acclaim for the movie Marichi, starring Vijay Raghavendra. Following that success, Siddhruv has penned a fresh, timely story tailored for Komal. Production is set to begin in May.

The project is produced by Siddhruv Siddhu, Santosh Mayappa, Pradeep Kumar Mahalingayya, and Renuka Prasad. Music is composed by Ritwik Muralidhar, with lyrics by Nagarjun Sharm. Uday Leela will handle cinematography. The film also stars Pushparaj Bolare, and the team is finalising the rest of the cast before going on floors.

CE FEATURES

Release date of Dhananjay's *JC -The University* is here

ACTOR Dhananjay's latest production, *JC The University*, is all set to hit theaters on February 6. Starring Surya Prakhyath and Bhavana Reddy, the film's trailer has been released, which also revealed the official release date.

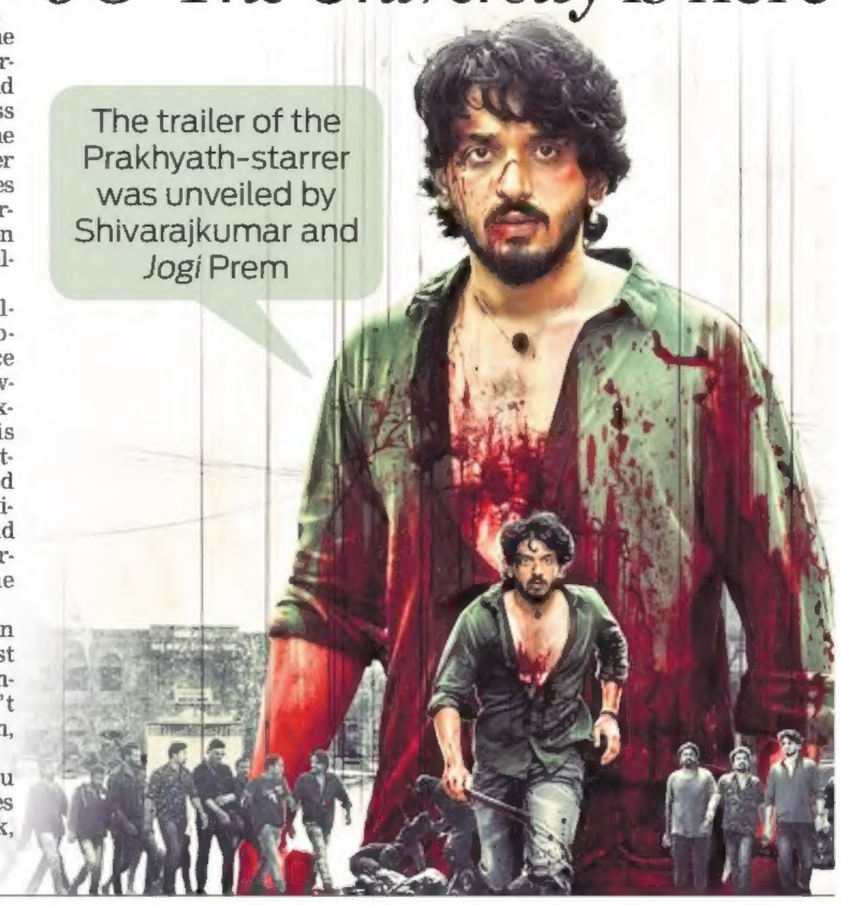
The trailer release became extra special with the presence of superstar Shivarajkumar and director-actor Jogi Prem, who came together to launch it and bless the team. *JC The University* is billed as a mass entertainer, set against the backdrop of a jail. The film explores life inside prison, depicting power struggles, inmate hierarchies, and the harsh realities of prison life, interwoven with an emotional father-son story. A dialogue from the trailer, "Even if the son wears the crown, he must not carry shame," has already caught the audience's attention.

Directed by Chetan Jayaram, the movie balances high-octane action, and emotional moments, portraying the prison not just as a place of punishment but of transformation. Upon viewing the trailer, both Shivarajkumar and Prem expressed admiration for Prakhyath, praising his performance and screen presence. Prem, reflecting on the harsh realities of jail life, remarked that only those with influence or money can navigate it easily. Surya Prakhyath's dedication and ease in action sequences impressed both veterans, with Shivarajkumar highlighting that he possesses all the qualities of a future star.

Dhananjay called Shivanna a guiding statesman in the industry who has assisted him since his first production. Speaking about the challenges of cinema, Prakhyath noted that money alone doesn't guarantee success; talent, audience connection, and blessings matter more.

The movie features stunt director Thriller Manju and actor Vijay Simha in key roles. With dialogues by Masti, the film has cinematography by Karthik, and music by Rohith Sower.

The trailer of the Prakhyath-starrer was unveiled by Shivarajkumar and *Jogi* Prem



CE FEATURES

Pruthviraj Patil's *Vikalpa* gets a release date

TEAM *Vikalpa*, which previously released the title, teaser, and songs, has increased anticipation with the launch of its official trailer before the film's release on January 30. Filmmaker Jayatheertha unveiled the trailer and spoke about psychological storytelling, new talent, and the delicate balance between imagination and reality. Impressed by the dedication of a team, mostly comprising newcomers, Jayatheertha acknowledged that their commitment to creating a story-driven film deserves encouragement, and praised the newcomers for bringing fresh perspectives and keeping the industry vibrant.

Pruthviraj Patil, who has written the story and screenplay, described the film as a psychological thriller centered on PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). "The narrative examines how a troubled mind navigates between illusion and reality. We used scientific insights and expert advice to shape the characters and situations. Although the theme may seem intense, the film is not intended to be a heavy medical drama," explains Pruthviraj, adding, "The film combines suspense with subtle humour and emotional depth. The real hero of the film is the story itself, with each character playing an important role in advancing the mystery."

A still from the film

Theatre artist Nagashree Hebbar makes her film debut with *Vikalpa*, and she revealed that her character is a person who quietly carries emotional turmoil without dramatic outbursts. "This internal struggle drew me to the role. I'm confident about the story and my character, and we have received positivec reactions so far," points out Nagashree, who believes audiences will connect emotionally with her character's journey.

Harini Shreekanth, who plays a psychologist in the film, shared that *Vikalpa* provided her with a completely new acting experience. "Despite the largely new team, their level of professionalism was high, and each scene was carefully planned. I'm sure viewers would find the film refreshing for the strong writing, natural humour, and the realistic characters," says Harini.

The film was shot in various locations including Bengaluru, Thirthahalli, Sagara, Sirsi, Kundapura, and Yellapur, with some scenes filmed in Singapore and the Netherlands. Abhiram Gowda served as cinematographer, while Suresh Arumugam took charge of the editing.

Steve Coogan, Caleb Edwards on board *The White Lotus S4*

CE FEATURES

HBO has expanded the cast of *The White Lotus* season 4 with the addition of Steve Coogan and Caleb Jonte Edwards. The upcoming season of *The White Lotus*, set and filmed at France's luxury hotel Château de la Messardiere in Saint-Tropez, is being written and directed by series creator Mike White. Their casting brings them in as the third and fourth confirmed actors for the new season, following the previously announced Alexander Ludwig and AJ Michalka.

Coogan is widely recognised for his iconic portrayal of Alan Partridge, a fictional and cringeworthy sports presenter character he has played across multiple television series since the 1990s. His credits include Philomena, The Trip films and series alongside Rob Brydon, and he lent his voice in films In the Loop and the Despicable Me franchise. Edwards' recent credits include an appearance in the Australian drama series Black Snow and a short film titled The Man and the Woman.

A SHARADHAA

RATING 2.5/5

Earnest social drama wrapped in commercial tropes

SURYA

Director: Sagar Daass

Cast: Prashanth, Harshitha MK, Ravi Shankar, Shruthi, Pramod Shetty, Prasanna, Nagabharana, and Bala Rajawadi

SURYA takes an unusual route for a commercial drama, opening not with festivity but with a child's birthday marked by loss. The choice sets the emotional temperament early, suggesting that director Sagar Daass is more interested in inner conflict than easy spectacle. From here, the film places tenderness and brutality within the same frame, allowing both to exist without fully reconciling them.

The hero's entry is blunt and unsettling. A daylight murder becomes the first real introduction to *Surya* (Prashanth)—staged as a mass moment but steeped in moral contradiction. Soon after, we see the same boy receiving the 'Student of the Year' award from the Police Commissioner (TS Nagabharana), once nurturing dreams of becoming an IAS officer. The contrast is sharp: medals on the chest, blood on the hands. This tension defines the film's emotional core, even if the screenplay doesn't always dig deep enough into its psychological cost.

Surya, an orphan raised in a modest middle-class setup, survives on relentless effort—driving autos, selling tea, working as a hotel waiter, while excelling in engineering classes. Hard work becomes his identity card. But romance unsettles even this carefully balanced life. Bhumika (Harshitha MK), daughter of feared gangster Maari (Ravi Shankar), enters *Surya*'s world and heart. Yet affection comes with social expectations. Can love survive without lifestyle upgrades and brand labels? The relationship collapses under that question, leaving behind wounded pride and a breakup song that barely allows the emotional dust to settle.

Interestingly, Bhumika's moral compass is not her criminal father but her aunt, Dr Mamta (Shruthi), a gynaecologist whose professional calm conceals unresolved grief. Her past as Mohan Kumar's widow and her eventual stand against Maari's trafficking network give the film its strongest ethical footing. When Mamta takes charge, the narrative briefly shifts from personal melodrama to social urgency.

While *Surya* battles internal conflict, the antagonists are busy consolidating territory. Kaddipudi Chandru's character thickens the criminal atmosphere, but it is Maari who dominates the underworld. He is not merely violent, but disturbingly methodical, running land mafia and girl trafficking like parallel business departments. Their rivalry is driven less by ideology and more by territorial hunger, turning *Surya* into an inconvenient variable who refuses to remain expendable.

Among the supporting cast, Pramod Shetty as Vanda Basu offers a tonal shift — introduced as a flamboyant local strongman whose arc bends toward reluctant empathy, providing brief relief from the surrounding aggression.

Narratively, *Surya* makes no attempt to rewrite genre grammar. It settles into familiar patterns: underdog romance, criminal empires, moral awakenings, and layered flashbacks. Yet, it gains some traction in how these worlds intersect: the doctor, the don, the student, the trafficker, all circling the same ethical fault line. Where it falters is rhythm. Emotional consequences arrive too quickly, while dramatic speeches are allowed to linger longer than necessary.

On the technical front, the film remains competent. Action sequences are staged with clarity, and the background score understands when to rise and when to retreat. The songs, however, struggle to register beyond their runtime, functioning more as narrative interruptions than emotional extensions. Cinematography adds polish, especially in college corridors and slum bylanes, but surface neatness cannot fully compensate for storytelling shortcuts.

Performances remain the film's most dependable anchor. Shruthi delivers a controlled, commanding turn, shifting from caregiver to crusader without tipping into theatrics. Ravi Shankar is menacing with minimal effort, while Bala Rajawadi lends emotional ballast in key moments. The lead pair approach their roles with sincerity, though the writing often prioritises situations over psychological depth.

Surya is about a boy who once aimed for civil service authority and instead inherits a criminal's scars. It wants to speak about trafficking, class fractures, compromised ambition, and personal accountability. The film manages to touch all these threads, even if not always with depth. It may not break new cinematic ground, but it leaves behind the sense of a film whose social anxieties weigh heavier than its commercial packaging, and that discomfort becomes its quiet statement.

Anil Shetty to headline Suni's social thriller, *Lambodhara 2.0*

CE FEATURES

ANIL Shetty will be seen as a lead actor for the first time in *Lambodhara 2.0*, a social thriller directed by Simple Suni. The film follows the journey of a young man in Bengaluru, exploring his ambitions, relationships, and the challenges of modern life.

Speaking about the project, Simple Suni said, "This is a completely original story inspired by the lives of today's youth. The film not only follows the journey of a young man but also gradually unfolds the conflicts he faces in life, layer by layer."

Bollywood actor Saachi Bindra, who plays the female lead, shared her thoughts on the story. "What truly excited me about *Lambodhara 2.0* was how relevant and emotionally grounded the story is. It reflects the realities of our lives while remaining deeply human. Working with Simple Suni and sharing screen space with Anil Shetty, who brings a refreshing sincerity to the project, will make this journey even more special. I'm really looking forward to bringing this character to life."

The film's launch was recently held, and principal photography is scheduled to begin later this month.

Influencer Mac Macha will play a comic role in the film, and the makers are in talks with a well-known Bollywood actor for a pivotal part. Written by Anil Shetty and Abhijit Mahesh, *Lambodhara 2.0* will have Veer Samarth composing the music, Santosh Rai Pathaje handling the cinematography, and Ullas Hydoor overseeing production design.

Saachi Bindra, Suni and Anil Shetty

Dhamaal 4 locks a release date

CE FEATURES

ON Saturday, the makers of *Dhamaal 4* announced a new release date for their film. Earlier slated for theatrical release on the occasion of Eid, the comedy entertainer will now hit theatres on June 12, 2026.

Marking the return of director Indra Kumar, *Dhamaal 4* brings back actors like Riteish Deshmukh, Arshad Warsi, Jaaved Jaaferi, and Sanjay Mishra from the original franchise cast. The first three parts of the franchise were released in 2007, 2011, and 2019, respectively.

Meanwhile, Ajay Devgn will reprise his role from Total Dhamaal. Other additions to the film's cast include Anjali Anand, Upendra Limaye, Ravi Kishan, and Sanjeeda Shaikh. The shoot for the comedy was wrapped up in September last year.